

Sony 200A The Outdoor Active
UHF/VHF Antenna with Built-in Booster.

Features:
 • Clear TV picture and FM radio reception
 • Easy installation
 • Light & Compact
 • Perfectly suitable in India, Pakistan, the Philippines and elsewhere.

Supplied by: **SUPPLYING STORE CO. W.L.L.**
 Tel. 2433409 or 5718085 or 2822771/2

Available at bookshops **NOW**

Arabian Year Book
 Contains names, addresses and activities of companies, establishments and banks in the following countries.

Bahrain Oman Saudi Arabia
 Jordan Qatar
 UAE North Yemen Kuwait

NO. 7806

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 1-2, 1990/SHA'ABAN 4-5, 1410 AH

22 PAGES 150 FILLS



Spectacular save

Favourites Kuwait and Iraq drew 1-1 before a near capacity crowd at Peace and Friendship Stadium, Kuwait, in the 10th Gulf Cup Soccer championship. Both scores were in the second half, with Kuwait tipping the ball into its own net for the Iraqi point. Sameer Saeed, the Kuwaiti goalkeeper, made some spectacular saves (above) to thwart Iraqis. (Photo by Ahmed Burin)

See Page 22

Massive demo in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, Feb 28, (UPI): Muslim militants in the northern Kashmir valley today pressed ahead with their campaign for secession from India, organising in Srinagar a rally of 200,000 residents and enforcing a strike that disrupted normal life.

The rally was the latest in a series of massive anti-India demonstrations staged over the past six days, designed to focus international attention on the valley, embarrass the Indian government and disrupt normal life.

About 200,000 men and women participated in a 2-mile-long (3-km) procession of buses that wound its way through downtown to the UN military observers' group headquarters in the state capital of Srinagar, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi, to demand secession of the Muslim-dominated valley from India.

The massive demonstration was organised by Srinagar's minibus owners association at the bidding of Muslim militants. A delegation from the group presented a memorandum to a UN official as buses rolled past on the green.

The green and saffron flag of the proposed independent Kashmir flew atop buses, while demonstrators chanted: "We want independence, and Indian dogs go home."

Separate pro-secession rallies at the UN observers group also were staged by employees of the city's main bus terminal and workers from the municipal committee office.

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light variable changing to light to moderate southeasterly wind. State of sea: slight to moderate. High water: 2.00 am, 2.00 pm. Low water: 8.00 am, 9.00 pm. Sunrise: 6.15 am. Sunset: 5.48 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 22°C/72°F. Ahad: 20°C/68°F. Faisal: 21°C/70°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 10°C/50°F. Ahad: 8°C/46°F. Faisal: 10°C/50°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 65 per cent. Ahad: 68 per cent. Faisal: 71 per cent.

Cory defends Enrile arrest

No political motive

MANILA, Feb. 28, (Agencies): Philippine President Corason Aquino today defended the arrest of opposition chief Juan Ponce Enrile, saying prosecutors had enough evidence to charge him with trying to overthrow her government.

Aquino, in her first official comment on the arrest, denied it was politically motivated and said Enrile would have full opportunity to defend himself in court.

Enrile, who helped bring Aquino to power four years ago but quickly became one of her most outspoken critics, was jailed in a suburban Manila police camp today to await trial on murder and rebellion charges.

"No political motive is involved (in the arrest)," Aquino said in a statement to reporters.

"It is simply a legal process for him and his co-accused to answer the serious charges on which investigators found probable cause sufficient to warrant the filing of the (case) in court."

Aquino said Enrile, defence minister under ousted president Ferdinand Marcos, was arrested yesterday for his alleged role in last December's bloody army coup attempt.

He went today when hundreds of people shouting "God bless you" mobbed and cheered him on his way to jail.

"Let history judge me... I am confident that history will absolve me," he told reporters. "I know that truth is on my side."

The wealthy 66-year-old businessman and lawyer said the charges against him were a fabrication intended to stifle political dissent.

Judge Jaime Sazara set a preliminary hearing for March 5.

The military in Manila is on combat alert to prevent a violent reaction by army rebels sympathetic to Enrile.

The Supreme Court will meet tomorrow to discuss a petition by Enrile's lawyers challenging the legality of his detention and demanding his release.

It said the charge against Enrile of rebellion linked to murder did not exist and that he had been denied due legal process because the judge who ordered his arrest had not held a preliminary hearing.

Charged with Enrile were his former security aide, Gregorio Honasan, a fugitive, cashiered colonel who led the army mutineers who took part in last December's coup attempt.

Others charged included Rodolfo Aguinaldo, governor of Cagayan province, two retired military officers and a businessman and his wife.

In a petition filed today, Enrile's lawyer partner, Renato Cayetano, claimed the arrest was illegal and violated the senator's rights. He asked the court to free him.

Vice President Salvador Laurel contended Enrile's arrest was an attempt to silence the opposition.

Laurel broke with Aquino in 1987 and later joined Enrile in forming the opposition Nationalist Party.

"I think Mrs Aquino is exacerbating the fragmentation and disunity of the nation," Laurel told reporters today. "She is committing a very serious mistake."

In a radio interview today, presidential press secretary Tomas Gomez said the charges were justified because Enrile led "the numerous attempts at a coup d'etat to destroy this government of ours."

"When there are no arrests, people say the government is weak," Gomez said. "Now that the criminals have been arrested, then we are called vindictive."

Meanwhile, police said they found two homemade bombs at a water-pump house and a parking lot in a shopping mall and a theatre complex in the Makati financial district today, but it was not immediately known if their plan was connected to the Enrile case. Military and defence officials said troops — on red alert since Feb 14 — were prepared for any contingencies. (See Page 2)

Congress (I) routed in Indian state polls

BJP expected to form govt in four states; violence toll 100

NEW DELHI, Feb 28, (Agencies): Former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party seemed to be heading for a crushing defeat today in state elections in which nearly 100 people were killed during attempts to rig voting.

Votes were cast yesterday in eight of the country's 25 states but massive violence erupted in volatile Bihar where local journalists said at least 90 people were killed.

Police confirmed only 38 deaths in Bihar state.

Early voting trends showed Rajiv's party, which controlled all eight states, was being routed.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a Hindu revivalist party, is expected to form governments in at least four Indian states. BJP is likely to come to power in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and is expected to form a government with Janata Dal in Gujarat. The states were earlier Congress (I) strongholds.

The army has been called out in Meham, Haryana, 100 kms of Delhi. The army was brought out to control the volatile situation and restore confidence.

Om Prakash Chautala, Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal's son, is contesting a hi-election from Meham. The seat fell vacant when Devi Lal moved to Delhi. After allegations of rigging, repolling was ordered in eight polling stations, during which violence once again broke out, killing nine and injuring 15. Mobs attacked journalists and chased Chautala's son, Ahay Singh, who later took refuge in a Sikh temple.

The Election Commission has sent two senior officers to investigate the case. They will decide whether counting can take place in the repolled booths or call for a fresh polling. Meham, has been a scene of some of the worst violence in state elections.

Among those who have been tipped to become chief minister are BJP's Sundar Lal Patwa or Kailash Joshi in Madhya Pradesh. Janata Dal is expected to support their candidature. In Orissa, Biju Patnaik is expected to be named chief minister. In Gujarat, Chimanbhai Patel may become chief minister.

In Bihar, repolling was ordered in 107 booths in 150 constituencies and polls are expected to be held Thursday. Reports of alleged rigging, and repolling were also ordered in Surat, Gujarat.

Congress candidates were trailing far behind those of the Janata Dal Party of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

(Continued on Page 2)



Ageless

An unnamed veteran of South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle shouts her support for free African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela during a township rent boycott. (Reuter wirephoto)

Another nine people were killed in Meham, near New Delhi, when police fired on crowds attacking polling booths today, the United News of India (UNI) said.

Meham is in Haryana state and its Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, son of deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, was seeking election. Vote-rigging was also widespread there that fresh voting was ordered in many areas.

In Bihar, most of the victims were killed in clashes between supporters of rival candidates who wanted to capture polling booths to stuff ballot boxes with fake votes.

Results

Gujarat: Seats contested: 182; Results declared: 37; Janata Dal: 21; BJP: 10; Congress: 1; 6. Janata Dal leading in 77 other constituencies. BJP is 55, and Congress (I) 35; BJP and JD had a seat adjustment in Gujarat.

Rajasthan: Total seats: 200; Elections held in 199; Results declared: 76; BJP 44; JD 17; Congress (I) 15. Prominent winners in Rajasthan include Chief Minister, Hanideo Joshi of Congress.

Bihar: Total seats: 324; Elections: 323. Results have not yet been announced but JD and BJP leading in 16 constituencies each with Congress I in 15 constituencies. Counting will begin Thursday in 126 constituencies.

Madhya Pradesh: Total seats: 320; Elections: 319; Declared 55; Results: BJP 43; Cong: (I) 8; JD: 2; Independent: 1. Prominent winners include Shivbhanu Solanki.

Orissa: 147 seats. Results: JD: 33; Cong: 1; 3; Independent: 2; CPI: 2. JD leading in 69 other constituencies and Cong 11 in seven.

Himachal Pradesh: Total: 68; Elections: 65; Results declared: 24; BJP: 18; Congress: 4; JD: 1; CPI: 1. For the first time in 23 years, a CPI candidate won a seat. Prominent winners include former chief minister and BJP state president Shanta Kumar, and assembly speaker Vidya Stokes.

Counting began only 29 constituencies yesterday and will start in 36 others on Thursday.

Pondicherry: 30 seats, close race between Cong (I) and Aizadk alliance and DMK-JD combine. Of the 23 results declared, Cong I and Aizadk have won 12, the others won 11.

Maharashtra: Counting begins on Thursday. Arunachal Pradesh: Total 60 seats. Earlier, Cong I won three seats unopposed; counting was done only for one, which went to Congress. Counting for other constituencies begins Thursday.

Prominent winners include former chief minister Biju Patnaik of JD and two other former CM Nandini Satpathy of Congress and present CM Hemant Desai.



Braving high winds

Local residents of the Dutch seaside resort of Scheveningen brace themselves against high winds and drifting sand along the North Sea promenade.

Holland has been hit by high winds and heavy rain in the past two days causing severe property damage. (Reuter wirephoto).

See Page 5

Fireworks mark end of festival

KUWAIT, Feb 28, (Kuna): Amidst crowds of people watching colourful fireworks and listening to music played by various bands, Kuwait this evening ended festivities marking the 29th National Day.

Minister of Information and head of the permanent committee for national celebrations Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad attended the lowering of the flag ceremony at the Green Island in the seafont. The National Day Festivities ran for 12 days.

Addressing the crowd, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak appealed to the Kuwaiti people and residents in Kuwait to preserve the peace and security Kuwait enjoyed in the past centuries, reminding them of the need to evaluate their feelings toward this country before taking any actions that might harm the Kuwaiti society.

Egypt deports American on suspicion of spreading Aids

CAIRO, Feb 28, (AP): Authorities ordered an American deported as a suspected Aids patient after he told investigators he had sexual relations with around 150 young boys, police sources said today.

The area at security headquarters where the man had been held for at least two days was "sterilised" after he was driven in an ambulance to Cairo international airport, the sources said.

Neither police sources nor officials at either the Health Ministry or the US embassy would identify the man, but newspaper accounts gave his name as

William Charles Harcourt.

Interior Minister Abdel-Halim Moussa ordered the man's deportation after receiving evidence from the Health Ministry that the man had been exposed to the human immunodeficiency virus, a precursor to Aids, a police source said.

But at the Ministry of Health, undersecretary Fat'by Sheba said blood samples were taken from the American and seven boys he was alleged to have exposed only Tuesday. Sheba said examination of the specimens had not been completed.

The police source, speaking on condition of

anonymity, said the deportation case began when the father of one of the boys discovered that his son had been visiting the American and suspected foul play.

Investigators have detained nine boys for investigation and medical examination, the source said. But he said the suspected Aids patient admitted to having had sexual relations with 150 boys during his three-year stay in Egypt, and police are searching for the others. The government newspapers Al Massa said the 150 figure came from some of the boys.

Your date with the

10th Gulf Football Championship Quiz Competition

First Prize
Toyota Corolla

and many other prizes



TOYOTA COROLLA 1.3 LITRE ENGINE

بيتزا ايطاليا
PIZZA ITALIA
 in co-operation with
 السياسة
ARAB TIMES

Details inside page

PRESENTED BY:

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est.

Jibril faction has obtained long-range missiles from Iran

BEIRUT, Feb 28, (UPI): A Palestinian group headed by Ahmed Jibril has obtained four long-range Iranian missiles capable of reaching the heart of Israel from the organisation's bases in the Bekaa Valley, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The sources said the surface-to-surface Iranian-made missiles with a range of 94 miles (150 km) were delivered to the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in Lebanon during November 1989.

The diplomatic sources, who requested anonymity, said Israel learned of the missile delivery and carried out two consecutive air raids against Jibril's PFLP-GC bases in late November in an effort to destroy the rockets.

On Nov 23 and Nov 25, Israeli warplanes blasted two PFLP-GC bases and a military camp in the villages of Deir Zanioun and Sultan Yaacoub in the southern part of the Bekaa Valley.

A militia source said the missiles were not destroyed in the raid because the devices were

hidden in a tunnel in a mountain. Syria has given shelter and support to Jibril since 1983, when he refused to move to Tunis following the Palestinian Liberation Organisation following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Jibril's relations with Syria have gradually deteriorated because of his ties to terrorist operations that have brought intense international pressure on Damascus. Jibril's organisation has been accused of being behind the Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie.

Arrest boosts Cory's tough image

Fancy legal footwork against Enrile raises doubt about motive

MANILA, Feb. 28, (AP): Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's arrest projected an image of toughness for a government long criticised as weak. But fancy legal footwork raises doubt about the motives.

"Blame it on the timing, but people are bound to doubt if the rebellion charges with murder filed yesterday against Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile... indeed show the 'effective operation of our criminal justice system' or is simply political vengeance at its worst," said the independent daily Malaya.

Enrile, a former defence minister and one of President Corazon Aquino's sharpest

critics, was arrested yesterday after he and six others were indicted for allegedly supporting the Dec 1-7 failed coup.

The 66-year-old senator was the most prominent figure ever arrested in any of six armed attempts to oust Aquino since she took power in the February 1986 "people power" uprising against the late Ferdinand Marcos.

After previous coup attempts, the government was criticised for weakness because of lenient treatment of mutineers. Although dozens of officers have been convicted in coup attempts, most enlisted participants are simply reassigned to different

units. In a radio interview today, presidential Press Secretary Tomas Gomez acknowledged that the government felt under pressure to take decisive action in order to restore confidence among foreign investors.

"Our friends abroad are beginning to shy away," Gomez said. "They are scared because they (mutineers) have created a perception of instability, that this government has very weak knees."

In moving against Enrile, the government stretched existing statutes to charge him with as serious an offence as possible. Enrile was charged with

"rebellion with murder," a non-bailable offence which carries a life sentence.

According to documents released so far, the government's case is based on statements by witnesses who claimed they saw Enrile with mutineers on the first two days of the coup attempt. Prosecutors claim that proves Enrile supported the mutiny.

But in 1956, the supreme court ruled that offences such as murder committed in connection with an uprising should be lumped together as "rebellion," a bailable offence punishable by six to 12 years imprisonment.

Gomez said, however, that

government would ask the Supreme Court to reconsider the previous decision and approve rebellion with murder charges in the Enrile case.

The government's very handling of the filing of charges showed the political sensitivity of the case. Justice Department officials leaked word of the charges on Monday and then announced they would be filed in a regional court in suburban Makati.

Enrile's lawyers and reporters rushed there early yesterday, but government prosecutors said they were awaiting documents before filing the complaint.

Enrile arrest brings feud to head

Politicians, commentators divided on likely outcome

MANILA, Feb. 28, (Reuters): The arrest of Juan Ponce Enrile brings to a head a long-running feud between President Corazon Aquino and the former defence minister who joined her husband.

Philippine politicians and commentators are divided on the likely outcome, but his detention raises the stakes to a country where democracy remains fragile and the risk of a further coup attempt very real.

Aquino's government has been under pressure to act decisively following the sixth and most serious attempt to oust her last December.

The dramatic arrest of the 66-year-old opposition senator, a wealthy lawyer who still has strong links with the military, could deflect pressure from a string of problems facing the government.

Aquino is under fire for failing to provide basic government services, with the Philippines facing power and water shortages, a mounting garbage and traffic problem in Manila, and inflation gathering pace.

The Asian country of 60 million people faces pressure from the United States to renew a lease on two key American military bases in the country. Rightwing army rebels accuse

her of weak and incompetent leadership and say she must be removed.

The arrest of Enrile signals that the soft-spoken 57-year-old widow is prepared to act firmly against those she believes are a threat to the newly-restored democracy, analysts said.

But some politicians feel it could backfire on the government, leaving it weaker than before.

"(Aquino) is in a no-win situation. She is only making Enrile a martyr and a hero being persecuted by a vindictive and ungrateful administration," said Neal Cruz, executive editor of the daily Globe newspaper, published by Aquino's speechwriter.

Aquino has personally attacked Enrile at two public rallies following the December mutiny, accusing him of being behind the coup, questioning his manhood and branding him as a political opportunist.

Enrile, who led the 1986 army mutiny that sparked the "people power" revolt which toppled the late president Ferdinand Marcos and swept Aquino to office, faces a battle in which he is suddenly the underdog.

He pointed up the irony after spending last night in detention, saying: "Where before I was issuing warrants of arrest, now I have



Enrile reads a Manila newspaper reporting his arrest inside a room at the National Bureau of Investigation. (Reuters wirephoto)

become the subject of a warrant of arrest."

Marital law administrator for Marcos between 1972 and 1981, he signed the arrest warrant for Aquino's husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino who was assassinated in Manila in 1983.

Suspect in Marcos trial gives up

NEW YORK, Feb. 28, (Agencies): One of the principal defendants in the government's racketeering case against former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos has surrendered to the FBI, officials said yesterday.

Rodolfo Arambulo, an officer with the California Overseas Bank, which was owned by the late Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and another fugitive in the case, surrendered at Kennedy airport on Monday after arriving from Latin America.

Charles Labella, the assistant US attorney prosecuting the case, said Arambulo arrived from Venezuela and surrendered his Venezuelan passport upon entering an innocent plea late Monday before US district judge John Keenan.

Keenan released Arambulo on a \$200,000 bail.

The Marcoses, Sanli financier Adnan Khashoggi and six others were charged with stealing \$103 million in Philippine funds, and then defrauding US banks of \$165 million to finance the purchase of some \$300 million in prime Manhattan real estate.

Then, in a superseding indictment, prosecutors charged they illegally obtained an additional \$77 million, from the Philippines and US banks.

The indictment charges the defendants hid the stolen funds by purchasing real estate in the United States.

Imelda, Khashoggi and Arambulo are the only defendants in the case who have surrendered to US authorities. Ferdinand Marcos died last September.

The trial is scheduled to start March 20.

Arambulo, also a member of the bank's board of trustees, was accused of helping the Marcoses hide their alleged plunder. He failed to surrender to US authorities at the time of the indictment.

Arambulo was ordered to appear at a hearing in US district court.

Commissioner David Castro of the Philippines presidential commission on good government said there was a witness list of about 50 people to testify against Marcos and the others.

A banker charged in the racketeering indictment with Imelda Marcos has been arrested after being a fugitive for more than a year, federal prosecutors said yesterday.

The defendant, Rodolfo T. Arambulo of Los Angeles, surrendered to FBI agents on Monday afternoon at Kennedy international airport, said Deborah Corley, a spokeswoman for the US attorney's office.

Arambulo is a co-defendant in the Oct 1988 racketeering indictment that charged Marcos, with embezzling more than \$100 million from the Philippine treasury to buy art and New York City real estate. They also were charged with defrauding banks of \$165 million in loans.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US may be able to save \$80 billion: The United States might be able to save as much as \$80 billion a year and reduce active-duty armed services by 594,000 people because of a declining Soviet threat, a congressional report said on Tuesday.

The estimate was one of five alternatives for US military manpower cuts presented to a House of Representatives Armed Services Subcommittee by the Congressional Budget Office.

The office said the minimum savings directly related to treaties reducing conventional forces in Europe and US and Soviet strategic nuclear weapons would amount to \$9 billion and a reduction of 107,000 in active-duty personnel.

The administration has proposed a budget of \$306.9 billion for the fiscal year starting Oct 1. Current personnel strength is \$2.1 million (Reuters).

Dole won't give up Armenian resolution: Senate Republican leader Bob Dole says he's not giving up his effort to mark the deaths of Armenians during the reign of the Ottoman Empire.

Dole, who lost a second procedural vote in the Senate Tuesday that he might introduce the controversial resolutions in another form.

The measure, which designates April 24 as "national day of remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923," is opposed by Turkey, where officials strenuously object to the use of the word genocide.

Opponents in the Senate argued that the resolution could seriously jeopardize US relations with Turkey. (AP)

Sweden fires on intruder: The Swedish Navy fired underwater grenades at a suspected alien submarine yesterday, which may have breached a sensitive coastal zone south of Stockholm a week ago, the defence command said.

The grenades were launched after sub hunters picked up sonar signals, apparently from an intruding submarine about 21 miles (35 kms) from Stockholm. No traces of a damaged sub were found later, however, said a communiqué.

A defence spokesman said coastal units first detected indications last Thursday that Swedish waters may have been violated. (AP)

Northrop pleads guilty: A major contractor for the US military, Northrop Corp, has agreed to plead guilty to 34 counts of making false statements and to pay a stiff \$17 million fine after more than a year of fighting charges that it failed to test certain missile and jet equipment.

The guilty pleas on Tuesday in Federal Court in Los Angeles were the first admission of corporate wrongdoing by Northrop over testing of some of the United States' most sophisticated and expensive weapon systems.

The fine was one of the stiffest ever imposed on a military contractor. (Reuters)

Nepal students rally: Two hundred students demonstrated yesterday in this satellite town of the Nepalese capital demanding greater democracy and massive participation in a nation-wide strike planned by the opposition for Friday.

Also, the union representing about 100,000 schoolteachers, saying it was angered by the government's violent response to the pro-democracy movement, said it would join the strike if the opposition demands are not resolved soon.

The opposition movement, headed by the banned Nepal Congress Party, had called for a nation-wide series of strikes and demonstrations to begin Feb 18 to force an end to Nepal's 23-year-old partyless panchayat government system of elective village councils. (UPI)

Croatia orders inquiry: The Yugoslav Republic of Croatia ordered an investigation on Tuesday into a surging Croatian Nationalist Party which has revived fear of genocide among local Serbs and angered a neighbouring republic.

The Croatian Democratic Union (CDU), founded last year after 45 years of Yugoslav Communist rule, launched its campaign for free elections due in the republic in April by hinting at the weekend it would demand Croatia's secession from Yugoslavia.

The CDU's weekend congress raised fears of a revival of the independent state of Croatia set up by the occupying German and Italian forces in World War Two under Ante Pavelic, leaders of Croatia's Ustashi secessionist movement.

Yugoslavia's communist rulers blame Pavelic and Ustashi for masterminding the wartime massacre of 700,000 civilians, mostly Serbs, Jews and Gypsies. (Reuters)

Call to abrogate press decree: Twenty-five editors have urged Prime Minister Chatchai



In the family

Jade Jagger, daughter of Rolling Stone Mick Jagger, arrives at the Lyric Theatre in London to attend the opening of Bus Stop, starring Mick's girlfriend Jerry Hall. (Reuters wirephoto)



Still the same

One of Asia's most popular toothbrushes (recently changed its name from Daisie to Dairle after its manufacturer was accused of racism, in the picture an employee at the manufacturing plant in Hong Kong performs a quality test on the products. (Reuters wirephoto)

Choonlavan, to abrogate a decree that gives authorities broad powers to shut down publications, one of the editors said yesterday.

A letter to Chatchai called for abrogation of decree 42, issued by a ruling council to muzzle the media after a bloody coup in October 1976. The police chief recently invoked the decree to shut down a leading newspaper.

Editors of Thai, English and Chinese language newspapers and weekly magazines, including Bangkok Post, chief editor of the Thai-language newspaper Matichon. (AP)

Open skies talks end: Nato and Warsaw Pact officials negotiating an open skies treaty have hit unexpected turbulence in talks that ended on Tuesday and must now look towards a second phase of talks in Hungary to break the impasse.

The talks, aimed at reaching a treaty allowing reciprocal surveillance flights over 23 Nato and Warsaw Pact countries, are to resume in late April in Budapest, Hungary. But much of the optimism that an accord could be signed by May has faded. (Reuters)

Five arrested for killings: Malaysian police have arrested five members of a Christian cult, including a fireman, for allegedly killing the fireman's wife and brother in the belief they could be brought back to life. (Reuters)

Congress routed in Indian polls

(Continued from Page 1)

Voting trends from the other states were still awaited.

Most analysts believed the defeat of the Congress Party only months after losing power in national elections in November could create major problems for Rajiv.

These could include a challenge of his leadership they said.

Party General Secretary Vithal Gadgil, however, said that the party was unlikely to split and that criticism of Rajiv's political style was "criticism for the sake of criticism."

Congress Party stalwart Dinesh Singh said the results of the voting had been predictable.

The mood of the people was for a change. We have to take this defeat as a lesson... (but) it has not come as a surprise," he said.

Dinesh Singh said the mood for change appeared during the November elections had carried through to the state polls.

The Janata Dal, and the BJP which supports Singh's minority administration in New Delhi, would be able

to form governments in the six states for which trends were available, analysts said.

In Bihar, fresh balloting had been ordered at more than 650 polling booths because of violence and rigging.

"Bihar has come to be known for this rather unfortunate phenomenon. Even so, we didn't expect it to break out on this scale," said senior Janata Dal official Jaipal Reddy.

Crime-ridden Bihar, which has the highest murder rate in the country, was one state Congress, in opposition at national level for only the second time in 42 years, had hoped to hold its first electoral test since the November defeat.

Teatly voting trends were mixed news too for V.P. Singh, who depends reluctantly on the BJP to prop up his government. Singh finds the party's brand of Hindu fundamentalism disastrous.

Police said Bihar's political rivals fought with guns and bombs and that two election officials and two Congress candidates had been arrested

on charges of attempted rigging.

Political analysts said electoral defeats in the politically important states could trigger large-scale defections from the Congress Party, which has governed India for most of the nation's 42 years of independence.

But a Congress leader shrugged off the early returns.

"So what?" Biju Patnaik, chief minister of the eastern Orissa state, said in a television interview. "The Congress will rise like the phoenix," he said, referring to the mythical bird consumed by fire that rose from the ashes to live again.

Violence continued today in some states where yesterday's voting took place.

This morning, rival political groups clashed in Bihar state capital of Patna, 530 miles (850 km) south-east of New Delhi, in renewed election-related violence, officials said.

They said the two groups pitched about a half-dozen bombs at each other, slightly injuring two people, before the confrontation ended.

SAFeway **fashion way**

Win now

45,000 Instant Prizes

Receive a coupon on every purchase of KD10/- from Safeway or KD15/- from fashionway and enter the great Dabdob computer race and win a terrific free gift instantly including valuable radio/cassette players, telephones, watches, mixer/juicers, picnic chairs, tents and lots of children's toys from Kids'rus.

Extra Chances

To earn your bonus absolutely free from **ROYAL DAEWOO**

Just fill in the coupon and place it in the lottery box and you could win one of the many exciting valuable prizes.

Draw date 19 March 1990
7.00 pm Safeway Farwaniya

1 TV

2 Video

3 Washing Machine

4 Mixer/Juicer

5 Music Centre

1 TV

2 Video

3 Music Centre

4 Washing Machine

5 TV

6 Music Centre

SAFeway FAWANIFA FAWANIFA

Aids alarm in Europe

Toll may rival accidents, cancer deaths

VIENNA, Feb. 28, (Reuters): Aids could kill as many young Europeans as car accidents or cancer by the year 2000 despite a slowdown in the spread of the disease, according to a study presented today.

The study, outlived by demographic researchers from Austria and France, said the disease could become a leading cause of death for people in the 21-40 year age group.

"The principal causes of death hit you after age 65. Aids hits you young," Gerhard Heilig of the Austrian-based International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis told a news conference.

"It might well be in some areas of Europe that Aids will become a cause of death comparable to car accidents or cancer," he said. Heilig gave no figures but he

said the forecast, based present trends, was valid for Switzerland, France, Austria, Italy and West Germany, where Aids was already influencing premature mortality rates.

Another group said yesterday quick treatment of Aids can extend lives.

"If Aids is treated before the immune system breaks down, you can be helped," Mario Delaney, president of Project Inform, a San Francisco-based Aids group, told Aids victims, health professionals and journalists in Paris.

Both groups stressed the need for sharing information about Aids, which kills by suppressing the immune system. It first shows up as the human immunodeficiency virus, (HIV).

ADMISSION OPEN

MODERN PAKISTAN SCHOOL

(English medium section)

Jaleeb Shuyouth, Kuwait, Phone: 4319555

Those who wish to register students for K.G. to Senior-III (Matric) are requested to contact the school office from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Academic session 1990-91 starts from 1st April, 1990. Admission open from 3.3.90. Tel: 4319555

آنڈونیلی سال ۱۹۹۰ء کے لئے آؤدو میٹر
یکش میں کے جی سے میٹر تک ہر ماہ ۱۹۹۰
سے واپس ہارے سے سکول پڑانے دوترا
فون ۳۳۱۹۵۵۵ پر رابطہ قائم کریے

Principal
P.O. Box 21387, Safat,
13080 Safat, Kuwait

INTERNATIONAL

New Hampshire is UFO haven, say saucer watchers

PORTSMOUTH, New Hampshire, Feb 28, (UPI) — New Hampshire, the state whose early bird primary attracts presidential candidates like honey draws flies, also seems a popular destination for extraterrestrials.

UFO investigators have been checking out reports of flying saucers, whirling things and glowing plates in the granite state's skies since at least 1932.

In the past year, reports of UFO sightings here have been mounting at a pace similar to the massive waves of reports in the 1960s, says Peter Geremia, state director of the mutual UFO network, or Mufon. Geremia says the state's noted UFO cases and continuing activity rank it No. 1 in the nation among some investigators for extraterrestrial close encounters.

"I made it that way," jokes Betty Hill, 70, a retired Portsmouth child welfare worker whose tale of a Sept 19, 1961 experience with alien on a lonely road in the White Mountains made headlines around the world.

At the time, Hill and her late husband, Barney, said they were abducted by humanoid beings from a "huge spaceship with two red lights" one terrifying night as they drove home from a visit to Montreal.

The Hills said they were questioned about life on Earth and were medically tested during a two-hour interrogation by an alien leader who communicated either verbally or telepathically.

The Hills said they were returned to the car by the aliens and told they would not remember their

experience. They said it was only after undergoing hypnosis therapy by a Boston psychiatrist that they recalled the incident. Their interrupted journey was unveiled in October 1965 by the Boston Traveller newspaper.

A month earlier, New Hampshire's seacoast region nearly was panicked after three people, two of them Exeter police officers, reported seeing a 90-foot diameter glowing red disk over a farm. "The incident at Exeter" on Sept 3, 1965, later detailed by Connecticut author Kohn Fuller, touched off a massive wave of sightings across the nation.

Dozens of New Hampshire cases swell the sighting notebooks that Hill and others have compiled over the last 25 years. They range from a mysterious object that allegedly fell into a frozen farm pond in

Wakefield in 1977 and was retrieved by a military unit, to the Oct 4, 1984 sighting of a metallic craft a policeman saw soaring over Keene.

"UFOs are old hat here. We've had them there since 1932 when what folks called 'thingsamajigs,' 'balls on fire' and 'metal pie plates' were spotted in Exeter and Hillsboro," Hill said. "It's getting so that the only people who report UFOs are newcomers."

Geremia, who leads Mufon's 25 members in New Hampshire, said sightings seem to follow cycles. "We have had more activity in the last year than I've seen in 10 years," he said.

Mufon, a respected, international non-profit group, investigates UFO reports and says the objects appeared to be of extraterrestrial origin.

State Mufon members recently checked out an Effingham man's bizarre report of two mysterious white lights that appeared over his home and knocked out his television reception. The lights took off and were followed by myriad red globes, Geremia said.

One evening last month, a New Hampshire Mufon team travelling back from a reported sighting in Chester, VT., to check out a claim that local people were abducted by aliens, saw an apparent UFO streaking across the night sky.

The brilliant white, emerald, and red light moving north to east was also reported to police by a half dozen startled New Hampshire residents on Concord, Pittsfield, Wilton and Bosworth. Manchester airport tower officials identified it as a large

meteor, he said.

"We're definitely checking into this. We have heard that there was more than one sighting of this thing, which rules out a meteor. It's under investigation," Geremia said.

Robert Hastings of Albuquerque frequently lectures on New Hampshire college campuses about his UFO research. His presentation relied solely on military, Central Intelligence Agency and FBI material and memos retrieved under the US Freedom of Information Act.

At a recent stop at New England college in Henniker, where his lecture and slideshows packed a 300-seat auditorium with sepiets, true believers and the just-plain-curious. Hastings displayed dozens of documents.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana: Even stars have to wait for their luggage in airports. Just ask Harry Belafonte.

Belafonte arrived Sunday at Indianapolis international airport for a lecture as part of black history month. The globe-trotting singer-actor spent more than 30 minutes waiting for his luggage.

"It's like this all over the world," he said with a laugh. "There are a lot of people standing around, so I guess I'm safe — so far."

The 62-year-old performer nearly went unnoticed by people passing through the airport, but Jayne Hale of Indiana recognised him and had him autograph an airline menu.

"He was going strong when I was young," said Hale, 48. "I wasn't sure that was him until I heard him speak."

But then, she was an eye for celebrity. On a flight earlier Sunday, she had singer Tom Jones sign the same menu. (AP)



Nichols shown with his wife Diane Sawyer. (Reuters wirephoto)

GREENWICH, Connecticut: Most people only dream of meeting their heroes. Thirteen-year-old Ted Huffman will get to perform with his Luciano Pavarotti, at New York's Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Centre.

The 13-year-old soprano from Greenwich will sing "Song of the Shepherd" from "Messiah" on Wednesday to open the third scene.

The performance stars Pavarotti. Huffman got a chance to meet his idol last Tuesday, when he waited backstage with 50 other fans after a Pavarotti performance at the Metropolitan opera.

After the two were introduced, Pavarotti sang the "Song of the Shepherd" for the boy.

Huffman also will appear in the New York City opera's revival of "The Sound of Music" next month at the New York state theatre.

The boy is a member of the Men and Boys Choir at Christ Episcopal Church in Greenwich, where he plans to resume singing after finishing his professional duties. (AP)



Actor Steve Martin and Harrison Ford attend the ceremony to honour director Nichols. (Reuters wirephoto)

GENOA, Nevada: Nevada's oldest town finally has a gas station. But not for long. And it's not for the faint of heart.

More than 30 outsiders have taken up residence, including actor James Cagney, but they are temporary too. Genoa, renamed Silver Creek, Colorado, for the time being, will be the setting for director Rob Reiner's latest movie, "Misery," based on horror writer Stephen King's novel about a writer imprisoned by an insane woman.

Since Hollywood's arrival last week, this town of about 400 residents nesting at the foot of the Sierra Nevada has been transformed.

A new sign at Genoa's main intersection reads "Welcome to Silver Creek. Established 1851," a year after the real town was founded.

However, anyone who pulls up to the new "gas station" will find that the pumps do not work.

The new sign is outside the town's only liquor and video rental store, which does not work, either. Shirley Giovacchini, whose home serves as the store, said only one disgruntled visitor has tried to use it so far.

But the four new buildings on main street built by the film crews are not fake. Genoa now has a cafe, general store, radiator shop and sheriff's station. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Actor Gregory Peck is host of next month's American Film Institute tribute to movie director David Lean, who will receive the prestigious life

Foretich pledges not to see girl

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb 28, (Reuters) — American oral surgeon Eric Foretich will travel to Christchurch where his daughter, Hilary, the focus of an international custody battle, has been hidden from him for more than 18 months, but he has promised not to see her.

Auckland lawyer Rod Hansen said today Foretich and his parents would visit Christchurch tomorrow but then fly back to Auckland, 750 km (470 miles) to the north, that evening without contacting seven-year-old Hilary.

"They have no intention of attempting to see Hilary during the visit," said Hansen, who is Foretich's lawyer. He would meet only a lawyer and psychiatrist who will report to a family court. The court will decide on the school-girl's future.

Hilary's parents have fought over her custody for several years in a court battle that has attracted huge media interest in the US.

The mother, Elizabeth Morgan, accused Foretich of sexually abusing Hilary and later spent 25 months in jail rather than tell a US court where her daughter was hiding.

Foretich vigorously denies the allegations. He tracked his daughter down to New Zealand only last week.

He arrived in Auckland on Monday, saying he had come to New Zealand to win back his daughter. But since then he has held off from visiting Christchurch, where Hilary has lived in a motel with her grandparents since July 1988.

The Foretich family intend to return to Auckland tomorrow evening," Hansen said. "They feel that their presence in Christchurch at this stage would only serve to increase the pressures on Hilary which they want kept to the absolute minimum."

Local and foreign television crews, photographers and reporters have besieged the motel since the weekend to grab a glimpse of Hilary. Their pursuit of the girl has aroused hostility among Christchurch citizens, some of whom have hurled insults at the media crews.

Describing Hilary's disappearance as abduction, Hansen said the Foretich family would dearly love to contact the girl, whom they have not seen for almost two and a half years but are acutely conscious of the need for the utmost sensitivity in re-establishing relationships with her.

"They have to accept that Hilary's memory of them will be hazy and may have been affected by what she has heard and experienced in the meantime," he said.

A Christchurch family court will decide in strict secrecy who will win custody of Hilary. A judge has already banned any media reporting on the court proceedings in New Zealand and principal family court Judge Patrick Mahony called on foreign journalists to respect the ruling.

"The laws relating to the privacy of hearings of the family court are respected in this country and I expect all people who have interest in family court cases to respect those rules," he told a news conference in Christchurch.

However, it is still unknown whether Morgan, a plastic surgeon, will be able to make it to Christchurch for the hearings.

US authorities confiscated her passport after she refused to reveal Hilary's whereabouts, but she has applied to a Washington court for it to be returned.

Koop

Aids policy is years overdue

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (AP) — Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop said yesterday that a federal Aids policy is "almost 10 years overdue."

Koop also told a congressional subcommittee that he was alarmed at a growing "conspiracy" about the Aids epidemic, which he said is overburdening big-city hospitals while spreading to rural areas.

Representative Henry A. Waxman, chairman of the subcommittee before which Koop testified, said President George Bush has yet to act.



Appeal to return passport

Dr. Elizabeth Morgan leaves the courtroom of Superior Court Judge Herbert Dixon with her husband Judge Paul R. Michel on Feb 27 after appealing for the return of her

passport so she can travel to New Zealand to see her daughter, Hilary shown (right), is the subject of an international custody fight. (Reuters wirephoto)

Eat less fat advice

Lowers blood cholesterol

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (Reuters) — A federal panel said yesterday Americans should eat, on average, three per cent less saturated fat than they do now and consume less than 300 milligrams of cholesterol a day to lower their risk of heart disease.

The expert panel on population strategies for blood cholesterol reduction, a component of the national cholesterol education programme, said these recommendations could realistically be accomplished over the next five to 10 years and would reduce the incidence of heart disease by 20 per cent.

In a new report, the panel also appealed to restaurants, grocery stores and the food industry to voluntarily disclose — on menus, grocery shelves and food labels — the saturated fat and cholesterol content of the foods they sell.

"High blood cholesterol levels clearly play a causal role in coronary heart disease," the expert panel said.

The government's cholesterol education programme is run by the National Institutes of Health.

Though the report is not the first to criticise Americans' excessively fatty diets, federal health officials said at a news conference they hoped it would encourage more individuals to improve their eating habits in the light of new scientific findings on the links between diet and health.

The report also should give momentum to a plan to require that the labels on packaged food tell more about a food's fat and cholesterol content, the officials said.

Heart disease, the nation's number-one killer, is behind the deaths of more than 500,000 Americans each year. About 1.25 million people suffer heart attacks annually and millions more suffer from angina, chest pain triggered when the heart's blood supply is restricted.

Cholesterol contributes to heart disease because the fatty substance is deposited in the blood vessels that supply the heart muscle. Eventually the blood flow is restricted to the point that a heart attack occurs or the heart muscle is slowly killed off bit by bit.

Shelter priest resigns

NEW YORK, Feb 28, (AP) — The priest who founded Covenant House, the nation's largest organisation for runaway youths, resigned yesterday after months of disputing allegations of sexual misconduct.

"The controversy that has surrounded me for the past three months has made it impossible for me to lead Covenant House effectively," the Rev Bruce Ritter said in a statement.

Frank Macchiarola, the former city schools chancellor who served as acting president while the allegations were investigated, also resigned.

Macchiarola, who was named acting president Feb 7, said in a statement he was resigning because the shelter's board of directors had voted against his proposals for the future of Covenant House.

A spokeswoman for Macchiarola, Maureen Connelly, said he was not available for interview, but said Macchiarola had wanted to conduct reviews, investigations and audits of current practices and make changes.

James J. Harnett, executive vice-president and chief operating officer, will take over the shelter until a permanent successor to Ritter is found, the organisation said in a statement.

The charges against Ritter first arose in December, when the New York Post quoted a one-time male prostitute as saying he had had an affair with Ritter over several months last year. The young man's father defended Ritter, calling his son an emotionally troubled liar. Covenant House later conceded that it had provided the young man, Kevin Kite, with a new identity, using a birth certificate of a 10-year-old boy who died in 1988.

DISCOVER THE JOY OF MAKING YOUR OWN NEGATIVES AND PRINTS!

Complete Home Darkroom

- 1. STARTER KIT
 - LPL 6700 enlarger (8x7cm)
 - Film processing tank and reels
 - 3 paper processing trays
 - Dryer
 - Safelight
 - Contact printer
 - Timer
 - Trimmer
 - (Plus numerous other items)
- 2. ADVANCED KIT
 - LPL 7700 enlarger (8x7cm)
- Accessories as for Kit 1
- 3. PROFESSIONAL KIT
 - LPL 7451 enlarger (9x12cm)
- Accessories as for Kit 1

All accessories available

The Symbol of Quality
photo & cine

Available exclusively at
MAIN SHOWROOM
Tel: 2420399/2420465
Fahad Salem Street,
behind Carlton Hotel,
47 Rashid Bldg.

LPL Enlargers

Form Arabia

We have a super new range of modern furniture - furnishings

Rent or buy — the choice is yours

Free delivery and installation

Visit our showroom —

Form Arabia
The Complete Home Furnishers.

Al Andalus Area 4, Souk 226
P.O. Box: 5116 - Safat - 13052
Tel: 4808009 / 4808010
Fax: 4808815

We are open from
8 - 12 noon,
5 - 8 pm.
Saturday to Thursday

NEWS BRIEF

Judge rejects argument: A US judge yesterday refused to overturn the conviction against Robert Morris for unleashing a "worm" programme in computers in 1988 that paralysed thousands of computers nationwide.

US district Judge Howard Munson set sentencing for Morris, a former Cornell University student, for May 4.

Munson rejected defence attorney Thomas Guidoboni's argument that Morris did not break into computers illegally, but rather merely exceeded authority already given to him for computer access. (AP)

Crazy Eddie fails to show up: The founder of Crazy Eddie Inc. faces criminal contempt charges after he failed to appear Tuesday before a federal judge to answer demands he return \$52 million to the United States.

Judge Nicholas M. Politano ordered US marshals to bring Eddie Antar before him and said a civil trial against Antar and two family members would proceed without the elusive founder.

Antar allegedly transferred the \$52 million in 1987 to bank accounts in Israel.

Politano set a May 1 trial date for Antar, his brother, Mitchell, and his cousin, Sam E. Antar, all charged with securities violations. (AP)

Barry pleads not guilty: The mayor of Washington, Marion Barry, pleaded not guilty on Wednesday in Washington federal court to eight drug-related criminal charges.

US District Court Judge Thomas Jackson set June 4 for a trial date after Barry's lawyer R. Kenneth Mundy entered the pleas for the mayor to five charges of cocaine use in 1988 and 1989 and three charges of lying to a federal grand jury that he never used drugs.

Barry, 53, interrupting a stay at a South Carolina alcohol and drug rehabilitation clinic, appeared in court, looking animated and dressed in a conservative grey suit with a maroon tie. (Reuters)

DEA chief to retire: Drug Enforcement Administration chief John C. Lawn is ending a five-year battle against drugs. His retirement as DEA administrator comes as the American public and politicians are more aware than ever about the dangers of drugs.

"There's no suggestion that he's giving up the war on drugs," said agency spokesman Frank Shultz. "He's very torn. It was an extremely difficult decision for him to make."

Shultz said Tuesday that one reason behind the former Marine Corps officer's decision to retire March 23 after 27 years of government service is that he will turn 55 in a few months. (AP)

Juhwan Yun denied bail: A federal judge denied bail Monday in Newark, New Jersey to a Korean-American businessman who is appealing a conviction on a charge he conspired to ship deadly nerve gas to Iran.

US district judge H. Lee Sarokin ruled that Juhwan Yun, 49, represented a danger to the community and a risk to flee, and would have to remain in jail pending appeal, said assistant US attorney Mark Olinsky.

Yun was sentenced in September to 30 months in jail. His appeal is scheduled to be considered March 16. (AP)

Tutwiler, Stiner trade bars: A State Department spokeswoman expressed irritation Tuesday over a charge by the US commander of the Panama invasion that a diplomatic leak about the operation had raised the casualty toll.

Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler was responding to charges by army Lt Gen. Carl Stiner, who said the Panamanian Defence Forces had advanced information on the timing of the Dec 21 invasion.

In complaining the operation's secrecy had been compromised, Stiner told a group of reporters Monday that one possibility for the leak was that a call from an unidentified State Department official to a member of Panama Canal commission that the invasion was imminent. (UPI)

Demjanjuk is not Ivan the Terrible: A US congressman promised Tuesday to pursue a media report disputing the conviction of John Demjanjuk as a Nazi death camp guard.

US representative James Traficant Jr said a report by the "60 Minutes" television programme "60 Minutes" has cast doubt on the information used to identify Demjanjuk as Nazi death camp guard "Ivan the Terrible".

The congressman, who represents Demjanjuk's district in Ohio, told a news conference he is "90 per cent sure" Demjanjuk is not the person who committed the wartime atrocities for which he is sitting on death row in Israel. (AP)

Women, married men ordination urged: A group of 92 independent Catholic organisations and some 4,500 individuals have joined in calling on the church to ordain women and married men to the priesthood, organisers said Tuesday in Washington.

(UPI)

Asia

MIA remains identified: The US defense department identified the remains Tuesday of four American servicemen — from Arizona, Illinois, North Carolina and Texas — who had been missing in action in Vietnam.

A fifth American also was identified, the Pentagon said, but the name was withheld at the request of relatives.

The four were identified as: — Navy Cmdr. Frank C. Elkins of Bladenboro, North Carolina, who was 27 when lost in north Vietnam Oct 12, 1966.

— Army chief warrant officer William C. Dundap of Tucson, Arizona, who was 25 when he disappeared in south Vietnam Dec 2, 1969.

— Army chief warrant officer Martin D. Vanden Eykel II of Wheaton, Illinois, who was 26 when lost in south Vietnam Dec 2, 1969.

— Army Staff Sgt. William D. Sanderlin of Fort Worth, Texas, who was 26 when lost in south Vietnam.



Stranded

Norwegian coaster Anne Liese, its bridge ripped off in gales off the Dutch coast on Monday, lies on a beach in Texel, a Dutch island where it got stranded on Tuesday after narrowly missing a North Sea oil platform. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tradition

Housewife wins pancake race

LIBERAL, Kansas, Feb 28, (UPI): A 30-year-old housewife ran 415 yards (38 km) with a pancake in a skillet yesterday to win the 41st annual international pancake race pitting the women of Liberal against the women of Olney, England.

Carla Patterson ran the traditional shrove yesterday pancake race in 67.56 seconds to even the annual race against the English women at 20-20-1.

In a tradition dating to 1445, 21 women in Olney, a tiny English village 35 miles (56 km) northwest of London, dress in skirts, aprons and headscarves and run 415 yards from the market place to St Peter and Paul Church carrying pancakes in skillets.

And in a tradition dating to 1930, they compete against women running the same race in Kansas. The 1980 race was declared a draw because a British Broadcasting Corp. film crew got in the way in the English race.

Patterson, a housewife with two children, narrowly beat the time of 68 seconds recorded in the Olney race by Alison Steel, 32, also a housewife with two children.

Liberal pancake day spokeswoman Rosalbe Phillips said the overall best time for the course is 58.3 seconds, set by Liberal's Sheila Turner in 1975.

nam Dec 2, 1969. (UPI)

New headphones to reduce noise: If raucous Pop music from your neighbour's Walkman prevents you from enjoying your Brahms tape, you'll appreciate this invention.

Japan's Sony Corporation has designed new headphones for its portable Walkman stereos that reduce audio leakage.

"The idea is not to disturb others," a spokesman said.

Riders of trains and buses often complain of noise pollution especially when played at high volume. (Reuters)

Asean institute of drug abuse opened: Lee Boon Yang, Singapore's minister of state for national development, on Monday opened an Association of Southeast Asian Nations centre to study drug abuse.

Lee also opened a research and training project for use of body fluids to detect drug abuse. The four-week course at the New Asean Institute of Drug Abuse is being attended by 12 officials from the six Asean members — Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei.

The institute and its programme are jointly financed by the European Economic Community and Asean countries. Officials said the programme includes research on tracking new drugs, such as cocaine and crack, and training chemists. (AP)

No intention of pussyfooting: The environmental group Greenpeace said on Wednesday a planned visit of the Rainbow Warrior to Tahiti in May was not a gesture of reconciliation with France.

"Greenpeace has no intention of pussyfooting around the French and being nice. We will oppose the things we've always opposed," spokeswoman Jacqui Barrington told Reuters.

"Sure we want to work on a more civilised level but it's in no way saying 'France we forgive you for what you did,'" she said.

Two French agents were convicted of manslaughter when a man was killed in 1985 after the original Rainbow Warrior was sunk by bombs in Auckland harbour. (Reuters)

Divided by ideology, united by family

Chamorros tear at each others' throat in print but friends at dinner

MANAGUA, Feb 28, (AP): Divided by ideology and united by strong family ties, the Chamorro family — now led by president-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro — symbolises the complexity of Nicaraguan political life.

Mrs Chamorro was a housewife from the conservative region of Rivas, in the traditional mold of the Nicaraguan upper middle class woman.

She went from housewife to newspaper publisher when her husband Pedro Joaquín Chamorro was killed, allegedly by agents of dictator Anastasio Somoza, on Jan 10, 1978.

The assassination turned Chamorro into a martyr and his death was used by the Sandinista guerrillas to ignite the revolution that toppled Somoza 19 months later on July 19, 1979.

Mrs Chamorro became a symbol of the revolution, joining the junta that took

over. Nine months later she quit, disillusioned by what she has said was the Sandinistas' failure to keep their promise of bringing democracy to Nicaragua.

Pedro Joaquín and Violeta's children are evenly split — Carlos Fernando and Claudia are militant Sandinistas and government officials; Pedro Joaquín and Cristiana are bitterly anti-Sandinistas.

Between them, the Chamorros run two of the three daily newspapers in Managua — the opposition La Prensa and the Sandinista party paper Barricada, which split off from La Prensa.

The Chamorro children tear at each other's throats in print. But at family reunions, politics end at the dinner table.

"We are brothers and sisters with political differences. We meet occasionally and we treat each other with respect," said Cristiana, the youngest of the children at

30 and director of La Prensa, which her late father turned into a constant critic of the late dictator Somoza.

The family story became the centre of attention again this week when Mrs Chamorro, heading an opposition coalition of 14 political parties and other groups, defeated President Daniel Ortega in his bid for re-election.

"The same differences of political opinion we had in 1979 are the differences we have now, but we have affectionate family relations," said Carlos Fernando, who as director of Barricada published articles that often ridiculed his mother during her presidential campaign.

Yet the two embraced publicly as loving mother and son Monday when Ortega visited Mrs Chamorro to congratulate her on her electoral victory.

"I have been a Sandinista for a long time," Carlos Fernando said.

A friend of the family, speaking on condition of anonymity said of the Chamorros: "They have one thing in common — a conservative patrician sense of unity of the family above everything else. After that, the differences begin."

They are all children of Pedro Joaquín, publisher, guerrilla, novelist and romantic, whose constant attacks on Somoza eventually brought him death on a street corner in a hail of bullets.

Many people like to speculate whether Pedro Joaquín would be on the Sandinista side were he alive today.

Carlos Fernando and the younger Pedro Joaquín studied in Canada, but Carlos Fernando was the only one allowed to work as a reporter at La Prensa while their father was alive.

"Carlos Fernando inherited the social concerns and political traditions of his father," said the friend of the family.

US aid package soon for Managua

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (Reuters): The White House and Congress, long at odds over Nicaragua policy, now focus on the need for US aid to help president-elect Violeta Chamorro rebuild an economy ravaged by a decade of conflict and a US economic boycott.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said yesterday that President George Bush would soon send the US economic sanctions in response to Chamorro's defeat of President Daniel Ortega's leftist Sandinista government in elections on Sunday.

Fitzwater said Bush's administration would also develop a significant and meaningful aid package to help rebuild Nicaragua's economy.

"The US commitment is strong and enduring. We will develop an aid package for Nicaragua that will be significant and meaningful. The Democratic aspirations of the Nicaraguan people deserve our support, and they will have it," the White House official said.

Key congressional leaders offered similar vows of economic aid to bolster Chamorro's incoming government.

"We do have an obligation to see democracy work there," Senator Alan Cranston, the second-highest ranking Democrat in the senate, told reporters yesterday after a White House meeting between the Republican president and congressional leaders of both parties.

Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Sam Nunn, a Democrat, said rebuilding the Nicaraguan economy would require hundreds of millions of dollars over the next four or five years.

"Their economy is in shambles," Nunn said of Nicaragua. "It's going to take more than a one-year package."

He also proposed creation of an "emerging democracy" fund to support the fledgling democracies of Eastern Europe, Nicaragua and Panama.

The harmony of views was in sharp contrast to the often bitter battles between the Republican-controlled White House and the Democratic-led Congress in recent years.

Bush and former president Ronald Reagan have led the fight to back Contra rebels intent on overthrowing the Sandinistas by military force. Democrats have generally opposed aid to the Contras, saying it obstructed the efforts of Central American leaders to devise a peaceful solution to the conflict.

In an ironic twist, the White House now seems more willing than the Democrats to trust Ortega's pledge to honour the election returns.

Cranston, an opponent of US aid for the Contras, said that economic sanctions should be removed once "it is absolutely clear that there is a peaceful transition."

Nunn said sanctions should remain in place until "the election has been implemented and that means when the new president takes office" on April 25.

Nicaragua orders truce in Contra war

Pressure on Bush increased to stop aiding rebels

MANAGUA, Feb 28, (Reuters): Nicaragua's Sandinista government decreed an immediate ceasefire in the war against US-backed Contras today to back its call for disbandment of the rebels.

"The President of the republic has decided to order from today a unilateral halt to offensive military operations with the aim that the counter-revolutionary forces demobilise immediately," a statement from President Daniel Ortega's office, read on pro-government voice of Nicaragua Radio, said.

The government also called on the United States to stop supporting

the rebels, who have waged an eight-year war against the Sandinista government, and on the Honduran government to immediately dislodge rebel bases there.

The Sandinistas have demanded Contra demobilisation as a condition for a peaceful handover of power to the National Opposition Union (UNO) which won last Sunday's general elections.

The re-establishment of a unilateral ceasefire, lifted by Ortega on Nov 1, meets a demand by the Bush administration which said on Tuesday that a ceasefire was a first step to rebel disbandment.

Both Ortega and President-elect Violeta Chamorro, the opposition leader who won Sunday's elections, have called for dismantling the rebels as a necessary step towards peaceful transition on April 25.

The government's step increases pressure on US President George Bush's administration to stop aiding the rebels.

Until Chamorro called on Tuesday for the immediate demobilisation of the rebels, critics had accused UNO of failing to take a clear stance on the Contras.

"The causes of the civil war in Nicaragua have disappeared. There is no reason for more war," Chamorro said in a radio broadcast.

"Therefore, those who took up arms must now put down their guns and return peacefully to Nicaragua with their families to work for the reconciliation of our fatherland," she said.

The Contras, who have some 12,000 fighters based in Honduras, have fought a guerrilla war against the Sandinistas since shortly after they came to power in a July 1979 revolution.

The war, which has killed 30,000 people and wrecked the economy, played a large part in increasing popular discontent and causing the Sandinistas' electoral defeat.

Five central American presidents called last August for demobilisation of the rebels, but they have been able to resist all efforts at disbandment because Washington maintained humanitarian aid until the elections.

The Bush administration has said it will soon lift economic sanctions against Nicaragua and grant financial aid to the new government but it has not yet made clear its stance on the future of Contras.

The Contras themselves look likely to resist demobilisation. Oscar Sovallbarro, a member of the rebel general staff, said in Honduras on Monday that the rebels would remain armed until Chamorro took office and the Sandinista Army was dissolved.

Sandinistas in turn fear that if they turn over the army to the new Chamorro government, they will be left defenceless and open to revenge attacks when the Contras return to Nicaragua.

Ortega said on Tuesday the Sandinistas would defend the "integrity and professionalism" of the Sandinista Army and police force, both largely loyal to the Sandinistas.



Ortega salutes supporters during a rally in Managua. (Reuters wirephoto)

Call to accept cartel's offer

Candidates' plea

BOGOTA, Feb 28, (AP): The drug traffickers' offer to give themselves up in exchange for an end to extradition should be accepted, two Colombian presidential candidates said yesterday.

"It is an unconditional offer of surrender that the government can accept without dismantling its institutions and without making any concessions," said Ernesto Samper, one of six presidential candidates for the ruling Liberal Party, in a communique sent to the Associated Press.

Rodrigo Lloreda of the Conservative Party said in an interview published yesterday in Bogotá's Semana magazine that as president, he would abandon extradition and accept the cartel's offer to surrender.

President Virgilio Barco, who cannot be re-elected after this term ends Aug 7, has refused to negotiate with drug traffickers who responded to his cocaine crackdown with violence.

Presidential elections are to be held on May 27.

The extraditionables, as the Medellín drug bosses refer to themselves, said in a Monday communique that they would be willing to surrender themselves and their cocaine business if the government would agree to try

them in Colombia. Barco has not replied to the offer, but he has said previously that extradition, the main weapon in his current crackdown on traffickers, is not negotiable.

In a Jan 17 communique, the Medellín cartel admitted defeat in its six-month war against the government. Since last August, traffickers have been held responsible for 262 terrorist acts, most of them bombings in which 209 persons have been killed.

The government has seized hundreds of properties belonging to traffickers. Killed one Medellín cartel leader, and extradited 14 drug suspects to face trial in the United States. The traffickers have avoided penalties in the Colombian courts by intimidating or bribing justice system employees.

Lloreda said he would try traffickers in Colombia's military courts.

He did not explain how his administration would circumvent a Supreme Court decision that Colombian civilians, including traffickers, cannot be tried by the military.

In other developments, two unidentified men shot and killed a Colombian journalist and the three peasant farmers she was interviewing at a restaurant in northern Cimitarra, an official said yesterday.

Mudslide buries village in Peru

LIMA, Feb 28, (Reuters): Twenty-one bodies were pulled from mud two metres (six feet) deep yesterday after an avalanche of mud and rock buried a Peruvian jungle village, and police said they believed 100 more people were still under the debris.

A wall of mud, rock and water rushed down a ravine before dawn and buried the village of San Miguel De Rio Mayo, while most residents slept, sweeping away 90 homes, police in the nearby town of Tarapoto said.

"The town has been swept away. About 100 people are missing and we believe they are buried somewhere in the mud," said Police Lieutenant Enrique Guerra.

The mud was still porous due to heavy rains, making it difficult for rescue workers to recover more bodies, he said.

"The place has simply disappeared, as if it wiped from the face of the earth. There is nothing left," Manuel Perez, a doctor at a hospital in Tarapoto, said after returning from rescue operations.

"People ran for their lives, but most of them had no time to escape," Perez told Reuters. At least 34 people were seriously hurt, he said.

The dead included a family of six and several small children, radio reports from the area said.

Editor accepts duel challenge

'I won't defend, won't miss rendezvous'

MC-TEVIDEO, Feb 28, (Reuters): A Uruguayan newspaper editor yesterday accepted a police officer's challenge to a government-approved duel with pistols but said he would not try to defend himself.

The daily La Republica's owner-editor Federico Fassano told the second provincial assistant police chief Saul Claveria he accepted the challenge despite his opposition to violence.

"I won't defend myself and I don't know how to use weapons. But I won't miss the rendezvous," the balding, medium-built editor said.

"With this acceptance I intend to hit the institutionalised, official violence that dwells in our state," said Fassano, who usually backs leftist positions.

The government provoked howls of criticism by allowing the tall, tough-looking Claveria to challenge Fassano — the first time a duel between a civilian and a policeman in active service has been sanctioned.

A 1920 law allows Uruguayans to fight duels with

pistols, the only weapons sanctioned to settle matters of honour.

Fassano has appointed two fellow-editors as his seconds, who will meet on Wednesday. Before a duel takes place, both parties must set up a tribunal which will decide if Claveria has grounds to demand satisfaction in the field of honour.

Claveria took exception to a story La Republica ran late last month linking him with a smuggling case. Fassano refused to retract his paper's report.

La Republica's story said smugglers were seen unloading Brazilian goods in downtown Montevideo from two cars registered under Claveria's name. The policeman said he had sold the cars years ago and they turned out to be owned by a rental company.

"Uruguay is the only country in the world that has a law authorising two people to fight duels to repair their honour," said centre-left congressman Daniel Diaz Maynard, who wants the law scrapped.



Federico Fassano (left), editor of La Republica newspaper, and Saul Claveria, the police inspector (right) who have been officially permitted to fight the duel. (Reuters wirephoto)

Exxon indicted on five charges

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (Reuters). A US grand jury has indicted Exxon Corp and the oil giant's shipping subsidiary on five criminal charges in connection with last year's Alaskan oil spill, the worst in US history.

Exxon face fines of at least \$40 million if convicted on all the charges, announced in Washington yesterday by Attorney General Dick Thornburgh.

Exxon chairman Lawrence Rawl said he was disappointed by the indictment and added his company would defend itself in court.

The indictment was returned after the collapse of lengthy negotiations between the Justice Department and Exxon over plea bargain.

The supertanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound on March 24, 1989, spilling 11 million gallons (42 million litres) of oil.

Exxon has spent more than \$2 billion cleaning up the spill that damaged 1,000 miles (1,600 km) of coastline and killed thousands of animals.

Thornburgh said the spill fouled the waters and shore of Alaska and caused the death of more than 36,000 migratory birds, including at least 100 rare bald eagles.

The Justice Department believes that the pristine environment in Alaska has been severely damaged due to the negligence and unlawful conduct by Exxon Corp and Exxon shipping, Thornburgh said.

By pressing criminal charges in this case, the federal government is sending a strong signal that environmental crimes will not be tolerated.

He added that prosecutors brought two felony charges and three less serious charges against Exxon, alleging it had violated the US dangerous cargo act and the ports and waterways safety act.

"We are disappointed that the federal government has taken this step, but we will accept the verdicts in court," Rawl said.

The grounding was a tragic accident for which (we) have apologised to the American people. "Nobody wilfully grounded the ship or caused the spill," he said.

He said Exxon "will resume cleanup operations as needed in 1990."

Storm continues to lash Europe

Death toll rises to 169

LONDON, Feb 28, (Agencies). Britain was bracing itself for weather forecast gales reaching 50 miles-per-hour or more.

The forecast spelled further trouble for areas already badly hit by storms of Monday and Tuesday. Last night, more families were evacuated after the high tide brought renewed flooding.

A total of 17 people had been killed and many others were injured in the last two days.

The new wave of storms brought havoc on the roads and more than 20,000 people were left without electricity in southern England.

This is the fifth major storm this year that continued to ravage western Europe, and the total death toll in the whole continent is estimated to be at least 169 people.

The storms struck apart from Britain: Ireland, Northern France, Belgium, the Netherlands, West and East Germany.

The death toll from the gale-force storm continued to rise, with 17 reported in Britain, 17 in West Germany, 10 in France, five in Belgium, three in East Germany, two in Switzerland and one each in Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands.

The violent storm demolished dikes, flooded farms and harbour fronts and caused the highest floodwaters in Holland in 35 years.

In Denmark, where a father and son drowned when their boat capsized, west coast dikes weakened by continued battering from heavy gales and the north sea gave way, sending floodwaters gushing into low-lying farmland.

Twenty-five people were hospitalised for treatment of hypothermia in Wales, and some people who ventured out to retrieve belongings from their homes had to be rescued by helicopter as the tide rose along the north coast of Wales.

Teams from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals took to boats to rescue at least 50 pigs and sheep, plus assorted cats and dogs.

The storm knocked a hulk 2,000 feet (600 metres) long in the century-old sea wall.

"We knew about the gale force winds and high tides, and did what we could by way of sandbagging, but we could not have prepared for a breach of this magnitude," said Neville Gough, Colwyn Borough director of housing and technical services.

The Association of British Insurers estimated weather damage over the past five weeks, including the Jan 25 storm at about £2.5 billion (\$4.2 billion). The earlier storm was blamed for 95 deaths in Europe.

French and British meteorologists predicted continued high winds gusting up to 75 mph (120 kph) and further high tides.

Hubert Lamb, a climate researcher at the University of East Anglia, said Britain's worst storms have come in the last years of each century. He said the present cycle could be comparable to the 1790s when one storm brought winds of up to 170 mph (270 kph).

Storms have not spared Switzerland, where three people are reported dead and many others injured.

Record gales were registered in Jungfraujoch at an altitude of 3,451 metres, with speeds reaching 230 km/hour.

Railway traffic was disturbed Tuesday in many parts of Switzerland due mainly to tree falls on the tracks.

announcements were planned, one about three hours after lift-off that orbital operations had begun and another 30 hours into the flight with the date and time of landing.

Atlantis and its crew of five military officers headed on a north-east course skirting the coast. Only three of the previous 33 shuttle missions began in success.

The shuttle's countdown and launch time were determined by the need to place a phone-relay satellite into polar orbit to observe military bases and missile bases in northern regions of the Soviet Union.

Because the mission was classified, NASA and the Pentagon blacked out the status of the countdown until the clock ticked down to the minutes.

Two minutes into the flight, the two solid-fuel rockets poured out and fell away, Atlantis beginning its climb into space on a trust of its three main liquid-fuel engines.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

Finally!

Atlantis lifts off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Feb 28, (AP). Rising a 700-foot (200-metre) tower of fire, shuttle Atlantis set the night ablaze in a dazzling sound-and-light show as it rocketed into orbit early today on a secret mission to put a spy satellite in orbit.

After five postponements, the 100-tonne spaceship thundered into a clear sky at 2:51 am (0751 GMT) and darted out over the Atlantic Ocean.

Eight minutes and 40 seconds later, mission control centre in Houston reported Atlantis was in a steady climb.

The flight engineer reports the main engine cutoff was nominal, mission control reported as the spacecraft soared into orbit more than 100 miles (160 kilometres) high.

Once Atlantis reached orbit, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Defence Department placed a news blackout on the progress of the flight. Unless there was a major problem, only two

announcements were planned, one about three hours after lift-off that orbital operations had begun and another 30 hours into the flight with the date and time of landing.

Atlantis and its crew of five military officers headed on a north-east course skirting the coast. Only three of the previous 33 shuttle missions began in success.

The shuttle's countdown and launch time were determined by the need to place a phone-relay satellite into polar orbit to observe military bases and missile bases in northern regions of the Soviet Union.

Because the mission was classified, NASA and the Pentagon blacked out the status of the countdown until the clock ticked down to the minutes.

Two minutes into the flight, the two solid-fuel rockets poured out and fell away, Atlantis beginning its climb into space on a trust of its three main liquid-fuel engines.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

third successive day of strong winds today as weather forecast gales reaching 50 miles-per-hour or more.

The forecast spelled further trouble for areas already badly hit by storms of Monday and Tuesday. Last night, more families were evacuated after the high tide brought renewed flooding.

A total of 17 people had been killed and many others were injured in the last two days.

The new wave of storms brought havoc on the roads and more than 20,000 people were left without electricity in southern England.

This is the fifth major storm this year that continued to ravage western Europe, and the total death toll in the whole continent is estimated to be at least 169 people.

The storms struck apart from Britain: Ireland, Northern France, Belgium, the Netherlands, West and East Germany.

The death toll from the gale-force storm continued to rise, with 17 reported in Britain, 17 in West Germany, 10 in France, five in Belgium, three in East Germany, two in Switzerland and one each in Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands.

The violent storm demolished dikes, flooded farms and harbour fronts and caused the highest floodwaters in Holland in 35 years.

In Denmark, where a father and son drowned when their boat capsized, west coast dikes weakened by continued battering from heavy gales and the north sea gave way, sending floodwaters gushing into low-lying farmland.

Twenty-five people were hospitalised for treatment of hypothermia in Wales, and some people who ventured out to retrieve belongings from their homes had to be rescued by helicopter as the tide rose along the north coast of Wales.

Teams from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals took to boats to rescue at least 50 pigs and sheep, plus assorted cats and dogs.

The storm knocked a hulk 2,000 feet (600 metres) long in the century-old sea wall.

"We knew about the gale force winds and high tides, and did what we could by way of sandbagging, but we could not have prepared for a breach of this magnitude," said Neville Gough, Colwyn Borough director of housing and technical services.

The Association of British Insurers estimated weather damage over the past five weeks, including the Jan 25 storm at about £2.5 billion (\$4.2 billion). The earlier storm was blamed for 95 deaths in Europe.

French and British meteorologists predicted continued high winds gusting up to 75 mph (120 kph) and further high tides.

Hubert Lamb, a climate researcher at the University of East Anglia, said Britain's worst storms have come in the last years of each century. He said the present cycle could be comparable to the 1790s when one storm brought winds of up to 170 mph (270 kph).

Storms have not spared Switzerland, where three people are reported dead and many others injured.

Record gales were registered in Jungfraujoch at an altitude of 3,451 metres, with speeds reaching 230 km/hour.

Railway traffic was disturbed Tuesday in many parts of Switzerland due mainly to tree falls on the tracks.

announcements were planned, one about three hours after lift-off that orbital operations had begun and another 30 hours into the flight with the date and time of landing.

Atlantis and its crew of five military officers headed on a north-east course skirting the coast. Only three of the previous 33 shuttle missions began in success.

The shuttle's countdown and launch time were determined by the need to place a phone-relay satellite into polar orbit to observe military bases and missile bases in northern regions of the Soviet Union.

Because the mission was classified, NASA and the Pentagon blacked out the status of the countdown until the clock ticked down to the minutes.

Two minutes into the flight, the two solid-fuel rockets poured out and fell away, Atlantis beginning its climb into space on a trust of its three main liquid-fuel engines.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.



Aerial view of the flooded town in north Wales. (Reuters wirephoto)



Two men try to retrieve their parked car as huge waves crash around them. (Reuters wirephoto)

Basques start parcel bomb war

Madrid's mail sorting worker injured

MADRID, Feb 28, (Reuters). A post office worker was injured when a booby-trapped parcel exploded at Madrid's main mail sorting office today, police said.

It was the latest in a fresh wave of letter bombs blamed on Basque separatists.

Maria Del Pilar Fernandez Ruiz, 36, suffered bad face burns and had a finger blown off, witnesses said.

She had opened the parcel because it was badly wrapped. It was not immediately clear to whom it was addressed.

The explosion occurred less than 24 hours after Spain's top anti-terrorist judge lost both hands and an eye when a parcel bomb blew up his face. Another parcel addressed to a retired army lieutenant in

Valencia exploded without causing injury as police prepared to defuse it last night.

Interior Minister Jose Luis Corcuera blamed the attack on judge Fernando de Mateo Lage, president of the High court handling terrorism cases, on ETA (Basque homeland and freedom), which is fighting for a separate Basque state.

ETA claimed responsibility last year for sending letter bombs to government and prison officials which killed three people.

Police said the parcel mailed to the judge bore an official stamp from the Justice Ministry's prisons department, and the one addressed to Lieutenant Francisco Albarracin had a stamp from an Army regiment. The stamps were apparently forged.

The fresh wave of letter bombs came as ETA's political arm, the Herri Batasuna (HB) Party, renewed a call for peace talks between ETA and the government. Analysts said it could reflect divisions within the guerrilla group.

"The government knows what the solution is — dialogue," an HB spokesman said yesterday.

Rutan shows New high-tech low-cost fighter

MOJAVE, California, Feb 28, (AP). Burt Rutan, who designed the revolutionary voyager airplane that circled the globe without refueling, showed off his high-tech, low-cost combat jet, and the air force was impressed.

More than 400 people turned out at Mojave airport on Monday to watch the Ares aircraft go through its paces after emerging from Rutan's scaled Composites Inc. hangar in the high desert.

The lightweight, easy-to-maintain plane proved its agility in a 10-minute demonstration flight that marked only the fifth time the sleek gray, white and blue aircraft has been flown.

crash, said board member Jim Burnett. Certification of the DC-10 brakes system was made when the model was introduced nearly two decades ago.

The safety board also blamed the US brake manufacturer, Lorain, in the aborted takeoff that injured eight of 254 people aboard the aircraft. The plane, which was scheduled to fly to Frankfurt, Germany, was damaged beyond repair.

Board members said the problem is that brakes near their wear limit do not have the same margin of safety as new ones, and the FAA did not consider this when it certified the brakes on the DC-10.

Blasphemy

Rushdie attorney argues

LONDON, Feb 28, (AP). Blaming "The Satanic Verses" for the deaths of Muslim protesters is "a perversion of both logic and language," author Salman Rushdie's attorney argued in blasphemy proceedings yesterday.

Geoffrey Robertson, arguing against a bid by the British Muslim Action Front to have Rushdie and his publishers tried for blasphemy, said the book was not intended to vilify or insult Islam or incite discontent.

The British Muslim Action Front is seeking a judicial review of a March 1989 refusal by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Sir David Hopkin, to grant summonses to prosecute Rushdie and publishers Viking Penguin for "blasphemous libel and seditious libel under common law."

Hopkin had refused the plea on grounds that the blasphemy laws applied only to the Christian religion.

The Front's counsel, Ali Azhar, had argued on Monday that the book had caused 30 deaths in India and Pakistan.

A leading Iranian cleric today denied there were differences inside the Tehran leadership over whether Rushdie should be killed, the state-run radio reported.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, reported the head of Iran's judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, as saying the Western media were trying to distort recent statements by Iranian leaders about Rushdie.

Panel appointed to probe Ariane crash

PARIS, Feb 28, (AP). European space authorities named a seven-member panel yesterday to investigate last week's explosion of an Ariane 44-L rocket carrying two Japanese telecommunications satellites.

Preliminary results of the inquiry will be submitted to the European Space Agency (ESA) and ArianeSpace on March 28, the two organisations said in a joint press statement.

Jacques Duran, the French director of the Ariane 5 programme, will preside over the committee composed of West Germany, Belgium, Italian and French aerospace experts.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

US-EEC bi-yearly summit

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (Reuters). The United States and the European Economic Community, confronted by an earthquake of change in Eastern Europe, have agreed to build up a much closer political relationship with twice-yearly summits.

President George Bush, clearly eager to maintain US influence in a fast-changing Europe, signalled a new era in Washington's dealings with the 12-nation community after talks with Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey.

"The United States will remain a European power," Bush said after pledging to stage twice-yearly summit with the European leader currently heading the 12-nation community. The post rotates every six months.

Ireland is the present EEC president and Haughey said after his turning-point talks with Bush: "We are building a broader bridge across the Atlantic."

The two also agreed yesterday that US Secretary of State James Baker would stage talks every six months with the 12 EEC foreign ministers.

The United States was once fearful of a "fortress Europe" mentality developing in the EEC's post-1992 single market and trade squabbles have often erupted, particularly over European Economic Community farm subsidies.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

The panel is also charged with recommending ways to prevent future accidents. Its findings will not be made public before the reports are handed to the ESA and ArianeSpace, the statement said. Last year's explosion was the first failure in an Ariane flight since 1986 and the fifth in 36 missions.

The rocket experienced a loss in power just after lifting off at the Ariane launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana. Technicians were unable to control the rocket and were eventually forced to abort the mission.

The vehicle blew apart over the Atlantic Ocean just 1 minute, 41 seconds into flight.

Improved DC-10 brake safety urged

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (AP). Top US safety officials urged tougher standards for DC-10 jetliner brakes yesterday, and blamed inadequate government requirements for a 1988 US runway crash that destroyed an airliner.

The National Transportation Safety Board also raised doubts about Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification and test procedures for all airliner brakes, which it said may fail when airliners abort takeoffs

INTERNATIONAL

KPNLF agree to dominant UN role

JAKARTA, Feb 28, (Reuters): An Australian proposal for the United Nations to play a dominant role in ending Cambodia's 11 years of war appeared to have gained some ground at peace talks here today.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front, one of three guerrilla factions pitted against the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh government, said it would leave a decision on a UN role to Indonesia and France, co-chairmen of the Jakarta peace talks.

"We, the KPNLF, put our trust in the co-chairmen on the role of the UN... whatever they want to do to enhance the role of the UN to bring peace to Cambodia," a spokesman told Reuters.

"We have given everything to the UN," the spokesman said.

The KPNLF decision appeared to be the first move by the guerrillas to concede on the issue of letting the UN and the co-chairmen decide the extent of the world body's role.

Australian delegates attending the three-day talks said the KPNLF had effectively given up its longstanding demand that the four warring factions form an interim administration after a settlement.

The Australian plan, adopted by France and Indonesia, envisaged the UN would play a substantial administrative role in bringing peace to war-torn Cambodia.

Talks in Paris last year bogged down over the issue of a transitional government.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said yesterday the two sides had agreed only on the principle of a UN role in ending the war.

Divergence
He said there was still divergence over whether it should play a monitoring role or completely replace the two existing governments.

KPNLF leader Son Sann, a former Cambodian prime minister, told Reuters after talks with the two co-chairmen that he was satisfied with the outcome.

"In discussions you cannot have 100 per cent success. But I can tell you (I have had) 60 per cent success," he said.

The KPNLF is one of two militarily weak non-communist factions in the guerrilla coalition dominated by the Khmer Rouge.

Phnom Penh government troops have in the last week overrun the KPNLF's largest stronghold in northwestern Cambodia.

Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen, in a statement made available today, also said he was willing to discuss the issue of a United Nations administration.

"Concerning the involvement of the United Nations with the civil administration during the transitional period, we are ready to discuss the various options raised by the Australian minister of foreign affairs," he said.

The major sticking point in talks here and in Paris over the last three years has been the issue of who should rule Cambodia after a peace settlement has been signed and before elections decide a new government.

The Australian plan, which has gained widespread support since it was first raised last year, would make the UN responsible for running the country and holding elections.

Australian officials have said their plan veers much closer to Hun Sen's proposal that his administration, which controls an estimated 90 per cent of the country, and the coalition should remain in place and administer areas under their control.

The two sides have been deadlocked over guerrilla demands that the two governments be dissolved in the meantime.

■ Khmer Rouge guerrillas said today they had captured 10 Vietnamese soldiers, saying this proved Hanoi was still directly involved in the Cambodian war.

Kaifu aims at better US ties

'Comfortable' society

TOKYO, Feb 28, (Agencies): Better ties with the United States and a more "comfortable" society are the main targets of Japan's new administration, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said today.

In his first news conference after appointing his cabinet, Kaifu pinpointed US-Japan ties as the most crucial problem facing his administration.

"We must maintain continuous dialogue... so that Japan-US relations can be strengthened," he said.

Kaifu leaves for the United States on Friday for talks with President George Bush that will include US demands in continuing trade negotiations.

"I will strive to achieve as many results as possible" on trade issues, he told reporters at the prime minister's residence.



Yozo Ishikawa



Kaifu Toshiki

Japan mag reports

Kaifu got more funds

TOKYO, Feb 28, (AP): A weekly magazine says Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who owes his position in part to his clean image, received larger donations than he has acknowledged from the company at the heart of a wide-spread influence-buying scandal.

In its March 8 issue, which goes on sale tomorrow, Shukan Bunshun says Kaifu received a total of 26.3 million yen (\$177,000) in donations from Recruit Co., an information services conglomerate, between 1983 and 1987.

Last August, when he was elected as prime minister, Kaifu told a news conference he had received 14.4 million yen (\$96,970) from Recruit, all in legal donations.

Seeking to maintain his administration's clean image, Kaifu held out this week against pressure from powerful party elders to give cabinet posts to two politicians tainted by scandals — Recruit and an earlier scandal over bribes by Lockheed Aircraft Corp. to influence airplane sales in Japan.

Asked at a news conference today about the report in the 700,000-circulation Shukan Bunshun, Kaifu said he had reviewed his records thoroughly in concluding that he had received 14.4 million yen from Recruit.

Foreign scribes protest snooping

China hampers work

BEIJING, Feb 28, (AP): An organisation representing more than 100 foreign journalists in China today requested a meeting with government officials to discuss a recent increase in police surveillance.

"We strongly object to this interference in the journalistic work of accredited foreign correspondents," the Foreign Correspondents Club of Beijing said in a letter to the information department of the Foreign Ministry.

It requested a meeting with the department director, Li Zhaoxing, and "representatives of relevant security organisations at the earliest possible date."

The letter was delivered to the ministry today, and there was no immediate response. More than 130 foreign correspondents from more than two dozen countries belong to the organisation.

Police have increased surveillance of foreign journalists since the lifting of martial law in Beijing last month. Correspondents from nearly a dozen news organisations, including US, European and Soviet, said they have been tailed at least once by plainclothes police in the past few weeks.

One reporter said his Chinese friends had been warned by their employers to stop seeing him. Three Chinese who visited another reporter's home last week were taken away by security agents as they left.

Foreign journalists have faced reduced access to officials and tighter controls since last June, when the army was called in to crush massive popular protests for democracy.

Under martial law, foreign journalists were required to obtain military approval for all interviews. Police surveillance appears to be a substitute measure.

The only official comment on the surveillance has come from Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who is in Geneva to attend a disarmament conference. He said the reports of stepped-up surveillance were inaccurate and warned that any "secret activities" by foreign journalists would prompt official response.

As during past upsurges of conservative ideology, long-standing official suspicion and resentment of all foreigners also has surfaced.

Kaifu said his government was prepared to respond to US negotiations' demands, which include the introduction of new land policies in Japan, the streamlining of its multi-layered distribution system, stepped-up public spending and stricter anti-trust laws.

"A major goal is to build a comfortable society" by enacting land reform measures and cutting the price of consumer goods, he said.

"There's a myth about land (in Japan) that if you own some you will profit, but this is not right in a fair society," Kaifu said.

"I am going to put all my energies in enacting the land reform bill," he said.

The bill, drawn up last year, would force farmers to develop idle plots that have been blocking housing development. It also includes measures aimed at making more efficient use of land in crowded Japan.

High land prices mean most Japanese have little hope of buying a home within an hour's commuting distance of a major city, fueling public discontent.

Regarding other aspects of comfort in Japan, Kaifu was referring to more public works spending on sewer systems and roads, all of which fall behind international standards for a major economic power.

At his news conference Kaifu appeared tense despite winning an eight-hour battle against ruling party chiefs intent on including in the cabinet politicians who have been tainted by scandal.

The 21-member government list, unveiled after late-night wrangling, included two key holdovers: Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

The absence of other much-touted names showed Kaifu, 59, had unexpectedly managed to veto politicians tainted by the Lockheed and Recruit corruption scandals.

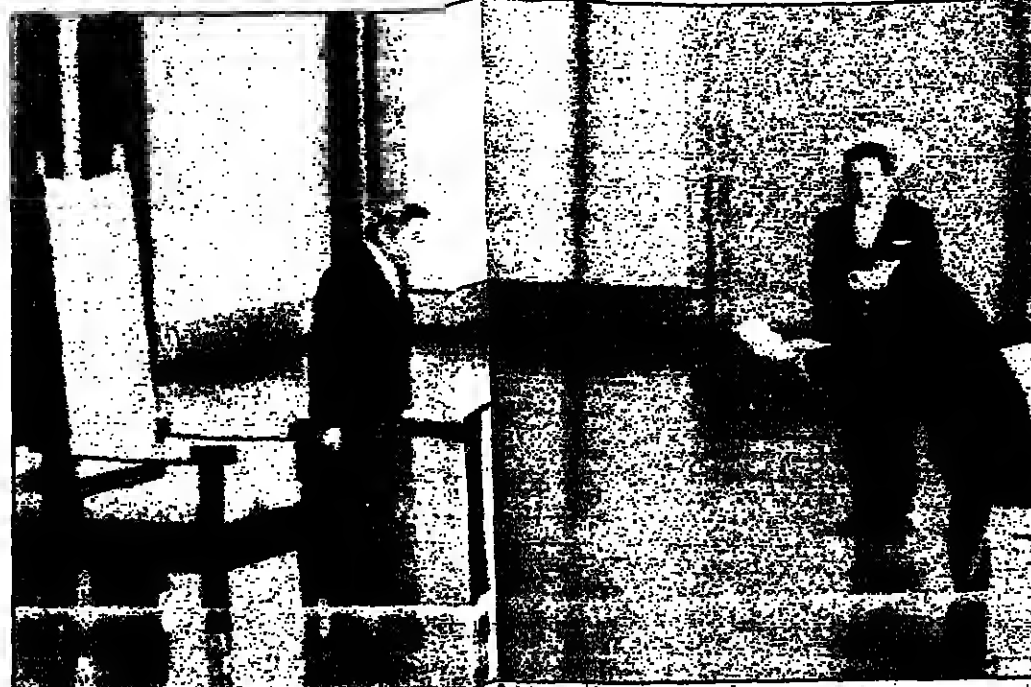
But political analysts said this did not mean the boyish-looking prime minister, a stopgap choice for the job last August, had wrested control of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from the political barons who have kept it in power for nearly 35 years.

"We have taken the first step toward cleansing the party," he said, but was defensive about the factional strife that delayed formation of his cabinet for many hours yesterday.

"I wouldn't say it was a case of refusing them because there were some who withdrew on their own," he said, replying to reporters' questions on the wrangle.

Former ministers Shintaro Abe and Michio Watanabe, two of the five faction leaders who control the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, tried to force Kaifu to appoint two men involved in the recent Recruit "stock-for-favours" scandal and the Lockheed payoff affair of the 1970s.

Kaifu presented his new cabinet to Emperor Akihito after a long wrangle in the conservative Liberal Democratic Party over his insistence on keeping scandal-tainted politicians out of the administration.



Kaifu bows to the press (Reuters wirephoto)

Iliescu calls for coalition regime

BUCHAREST, Feb 28, (AP): Interim President Ion Iliescu yesterday called for a coalition to govern Romania after elections May 20, saying no party was strong enough to govern alone.

Iliescu's National Salvation Front, which began governing during the December revolution that toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, is considered the easy favourite in the elections.

Amid accusations that many of its leading members were undemocratic, it was forced to howl to opposition pressure and share power following general outrage over its decision to run in May elections, reversing an earlier pledge not to do so.

"Regardless of the results (of the elections)... the most realistic thing is to establish a multi-party coalition to govern the country," Iliescu was quoted as saying in an interview with Romania's Libera, the country's top-selling newspaper.

"The majority of parties and political formations are too weak to govern," Iliescu said.

Radu Campeanu, the President of the National Liberal Party, told reporters that he didn't rule out a possible alliance with the front.

"The situation in the country is, and will continue to be, so grave that such a coalition of different political forces may be helpful," he said.

Campeanu added, however, that "there is not a great deal of ideological common ground" between the front and his party, which favours speedier restructuring of the centralised economy of four decades of communist rule into a free market one.

The front's main rival, the National Peasants Party, appeared even less enthused about the idea.

"It is impossible to pronounce ourselves in favour of or against such a coalition before we know what the election results are," said party spokesman Valentin Gaborcescu. "In any case, we would much prefer a coalition with other parties and are working to establish an alliance with them before the elections."

Government critics have charged that Iliescu and other former communists who ran afraid of Ceausescu want to retain some of the totalitarian elements of the Ceausescu era. Among other things, they blame the front for the government's allegedly heavy-handed control of television.

Several important parties have been seeking to form an electoral alliance that would run against the front in the elections. Leaders of these parties — the National Peasants Party, the National Liberal Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Labour Party — expect an agreement to be reached within the next two weeks.

Lee chickens out of changes
TAIPEI, Feb 28, (UPI): Kuomintang legislator Jaw Shao-kang today disclosed that Premier Lee Huan originally had planned to announce the abolishment of Taiwan's "three-no" policy against China in his state of the nation address last week.

The Premier had also planned — in his speech before the legislative Yuan Feb 23 — to call for active pursuit of contacts with Beijing and a campaign to try to persuade it to abandon communist policies, said Jaw, one of the key members of the liberal Kuomintang camp in the legislature.

But Lee changed his mind at the last moment because he feared such announcements would "make President Lee Teng-bui look bad" and arouse the anger of party elders, Jaw told a news conference.

The abolishment of the "three-no" policy — no contact, no negotiations and no compromise with China — would greatly alter relations between Taipei and Beijing and pave the way for official talks.

Czechs control their own destiny

Soviets going home

PRAGUE, Feb 28, (Agencies): With Soviet troops on their way home, Czechoslovakia has greater control over its own destiny than for more than 50 years, President Václav Havel said today.

"We are a country that is truly sovereign, independent and respected and need not be afraid of any immediate threat," Havel told news conference.

"We need to be afraid of what we will be forced to capitulate in some matter, as we have done so often in the past."

Havel returned yesterday from Moscow where an agreement was signed for the 73,500 Soviet soldiers in Czechoslovakia to leave the 1986 Warsaw Pact invasion to pull out.

The withdrawal began on Monday and will last until next year.

"Since much, we have not been as secure as we are now," Havel said, adding as a qualification that there was a "number of links from the past that can't be broken overnight."

In September 1938, Czechoslovakia was forced at the four-power Munich conference between Britain, France, Germany and Italy to hand over territory claimed by Nazi Germany. Hitler nonetheless invaded Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939 and rode in triumph through Prague.

Havel, whose first trip abroad as President last month included a symbolic visit to Munich, will greet West German President Richard von Weizsäcker in Prague on the 51st anniversary of the invasion.

"I invented his date myself because it seemed very appropriate. I like symbols in politics," Havel said.

"Hitler came here as a messenger of war and violence and brought horrors for the whole world... Mr. Von Weizsäcker is a man of peace, a philosopher, a scholar."

Havel said the West German President's visit "should be the end of all we have experienced in the past, the signal that we are beginning to live with this important neighbour of ours in entirely new relations."

He said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had treated him as an equal and, like US President George Bush whom Havel met in Washington last week, was interested in a proposal for the superpowers to hold a summit in Prague — "perhaps in the autumn."

Havel also said a summit of European heads of state should take place this year to prepare for a second Helsinki conference on the continent's security that should be the definitive end of the postwar period.

A presidential aide announced that Havel's hectic diplomatic schedule, almost non-stop since he took office on Dec 29, would continue next month with a four-day visit to France and Britain starting on March 19.

In the meantime Havel is taking a week's holiday starting tomorrow.

"I always felt Gorbachev was a bit of a dictator the way I saw him on television shouting at the Congress and making his little jokes," Havel said. He returned from Moscow yesterday.

"In reality he is a very modest, shy and nice man who knows how to listen to you, and you don't see that in politics very often," Havel said. "I liked him."

Soviets ready to sign Start

GENEVA, Feb 28, (Reuters): Moscow is ready to sign a Strategic Arms Treaty but could pull out if the United States began testing its star wars space defense system, the chief Soviet arms negotiator said today.

Moscow would probably withdraw from a Start (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) treaty if it believed US space-based defenses violated the US-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missiles (ABM) treaty, Yuri Nazarkin said.

Washington is not violating that treaty yet, Moscow says, but it would do so if it started testing star wars, known formally as the strategic defence initiative.

"If the ABM treaty is violated, we will probably use our right of withdrawal," Nazarkin said in a joint appearance with chief US arms negotiator Richard Burt on an American television programme being broadcast today.

This would not stop Moscow signing a treaty, he said. "We do not put forward any preconditions for signing a Start treaty."

Soviet linkage of a strict interpretation of the 1972 ABM treaty to a start treaty had long been one of the main obstacles in negotiating deep cuts in the superpower's long-range nuclear arsenals.

A meeting in Moscow this month between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker seemed to have resolved the issue.

A senior US official told reporters at the time agreement on the ABM issue was no longer a Soviet condition for signing an implementing a Start agreement.

President George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev agreed at their Malta Summit last December to clear all major obstacles to start when they meet again in June and possibly sign the treaty.

Getting an arms pact past the US senate, which must ratify treaties by a two-thirds majority, has sometimes proved more difficult than reaching agreement with Moscow.

The Senate cast a very sceptical eye over the superpowers' intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty before ratifying it in 1988 and has refused to approve the 1979 Salt II agreement and two nuclear testing treaties from the 1970s.

Asked whether the withdrawal issue might move conservative senators such as Jesse Helms to block a Start treaty, Burt said: "I think this has been resolved in a way that should meet Senator Helms' concerns. It does meet, I know, Jim Baker's very high concerns about making sure that this treaty will be ratified by the US Senate."

Microrobots spy

New form of sabotage, warfare

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (Reuters): Could robots the size of specks of dust serve as soldiers and spies in wars of the future, wreaking havoc with enemy computers or even taking control of an enemy general's brain?

As scientists experiment with new machines so small they can barely be seen with the naked eye, military planners are beginning to wonder how a new generation of microrobots could be used in war.

Microrobotics, a new and fast-growing branch of technology, has already produced a range of tiny devices that could be taken from science fiction — machines so small they can be inhaled.

Researchers at the University of California at Berkeley have made a silicon motor the width of a hair that can rotate 500 times a minute. At ATT's Bell Laboratories a tiny, four-legged mechanical bug is reported to be able to align microscopic optical fibres.

At Japan's Tokyo University work is underway on a robot so small it could travel through the bloodstream and no organs, inspecting, or perhaps even excising, diseased tissue.

While the bloodstream submarine is expected to take another two years to develop, according to scientific publications, a comparatively gigantic forerunner has already been tested.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, have developed a pill containing a silicon thermometer and a transmitter that can broadcast temperature changes inside a person's body to a recording device.

Military applications of microrobotics are rarely discussed in public. But the latest issue of Signal, the official publication of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, provided a glimpse into how the military view the new field.

An article by Charles Petty, a former Pentagon official and president of a consulting firm called Special Defence Services, suggested a variety of uses — including microrobots that "could be used to inflict control over a subject."

Another possible application could be to place microrobots inside the circuits of computers, where they could be dormant for years — the mechanical equivalent of the espionage world's "sleeping" spy.

Activating the microrobot "could be by radar impulse of specified duration, frequency or even polarisation (which) could cause the robot to manoeuvre into a position to wreak the most havoc."

Such devices would be virtually impossible to detect, according to Petty, because they would look like just another piece of debris in the sabotaged circuit.

On the battlefield, giant airborne robots with infra-red sensors could locate enemy troops and perform pre-programmed tasks.

In counter-terrorism operations miniature devices could infiltrate a building or room where hostages are held, monitor conversations and pinpoint terrorists and hostages to a human attack team could strike with precision.

"By the early 21st century, machines smaller than pinheads could power thousands of little robots... patrolling security areas," Petty wrote.

In a non-aggressive role microrobots could revolutionise the operation of military aircraft, sensing defects in circuits and correcting faults with such speed "that only a flashing light on a telephone would alert an aviator that near tragedy had been overcome."

The first steps toward such applications have already been taken. A small army of silicon sensors at more than 250 points in the US space shuttle's engines measure temperature and performance. Pressure in the cabin and hydraulic system are also monitored by tiny sensors.

A 1988 report to the US National Science Foundation listed dozens of uses for micromachines, including miniature structures that could drive a new generation of tiny computers and tiny saws and scissors for remote-control surgery.

Experts say that the United States is leading the international pack in microrobotics and some of the biggest names in industry and research institutes are involved — ATT, IBM, General Motors, Ford, Hewlett-Packard, Dupont, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Berkeley, Stanford and the Naval Research Laboratory.

But the American lead is being challenged by Japan and West Germany, scientists say. Toyota, Mitsubishi, Matsubara and Seiko are investing in microrobotics research and West Germany is at the forefront of new techniques to shape microstructures.

German researchers are using X-rays to etch three-dimensional structures on the surface of computer chips. The process can be adapted to make tiny movable parts.

The gears, levers, screws and axles researchers want to develop for microrobots must be thousands of times smaller than the smallest available now — and the problems of lubricating and cooling such items are mind-boggling.

At the leading edge of research into microrobots are some US scientists working in even smaller dimensions. Known as nanotechnologists — the prefix nano means a billionth — these researchers' ultimate dream features microrobots that could build finished products atom by atom.



Lee forms own party

Lee Ki-tack waves a brightly coloured scarf to cheer the founding of his New Democratic Party in Seoul Feb 27. Lee a former top aide to opposition politician Kim Young-Sam, formed the new party with several other members of parliament after refusing to follow Kim when he joined the ruling camp.



1,111 freed

The Seoul government freed 1,111 prisoners Wednesday to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the March 1, 1919, Independence Movement against Japan.

The release took place at 10 am at prisons across the country, a spokesman said.

Pictures show So Sung, a former Korean resident in Japan raising his arms in the air outside his Seoul home. So celebrates his release from prison on charges of spying for communist North Korea. So spent nearly 17 years out of 20-year term in a southern jail before he was freed in a mass demeracy to mark the anniversary (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev shows political mastery

Russians will be allowed to own land

MOSCOW, Feb 28, (Agencies): Mikhail Gorbachev, in a display of political mastery, cajoled and browbeat Parliament into backing his plan to become the Soviet Union's first executive President with sweeping powers of war and peace.

With a forceful show of leadership, he got Parliament to clear a way to create the new post in a major constitutional revision, despite fears by radical deputies of a slide towards dictatorship.

Gorbachev, Kremlin chief since 1985, has been Soviet President since last May but with nothing like the authority now proposed for him to tackle crises ranging from economic turmoil to ethnic unrest and separatism in the outlying republics.

The Supreme Soviet, the standing parliament, approved in principle yesterday by 306 votes to 65, draft legislation to set up an executive-style presidency with vast powers and to overhaul the country's political institutions.

The post emanated from a Communist Party Central Committee meeting this month which also agreed to end the party's decades-old monopoly on power.

Tuesday's vote ended a single day's bad-tempered debate. Radicals complained that the plan concentrated too much power in Gorbachev's hands and was a recipe for dictatorship.

Deputies voted to turn the legislation over the commissions and committees and to convene a session on March 12-13 of the Congress of People's Deputies—the top legislative body which must approve constitutional amendments.

Gorbachev steered the discussion entirely his way yesterday, and dismissed the arguments of his opponents, particularly members of the radical inter-regional group, which he described as a "formal opposition."

"Those who three or four weeks ago were calling at the top of their voice for a president are now saying that introducing presidential power is a path to dictatorship, to holding by the throat and hurrying democracy and perestroika," he said.

"It has nothing to do with Gorbachev's power when we speak about presidential power... what does Gorbachev have to do with it? Life has brought us to this point, nothing else. We must have a decision."

The Soviet leadership acknowledged that there was a serious split on the matter in the party and in the Parliament but said this was "not a tragedy but a reality."

The bill empowers the executive President to declare martial law or a state of emergency in parts of the country, to appoint or remove the prime minister and other officials and declare war in case of attack.

Opponents of the bill said they favoured the idea of a stronger head of state but objected to what they called Gorbachev's high-handed tactics in curtailing debate and holding an excessive concentration of power in his hands.

Yuri Boldyrev, a deputy from Leningrad, suggested that Gorbachev not be entitled to a veto, citing instances when the Soviet leader had held back changes, like those eventually approved this month.

The Soviet legislature today approved a landmark bill that would allow citizens to acquire land and bequeath it to their children for the first time since peasants were stripped of their farms in the 1930s.

But the law stops short of legalising full private ownership of property by strictly forbidding the sale of land. Under the new law, plots only can be leased and lease prices will be set by the state.

The measure is one of a package designed to give force of law to the economic and social reforms championed by Gorbachev. The official news agency Tass called it "a major legal document of Soviet economic reform."

State ownership of land, enshrined in the Soviet constitution, has been a cornerstone of Soviet communism since the 1917 revolution. But Soviet reformists and economists have called repeatedly for allowing private ownership as a way of spurring economic growth in the troubled country.

By altering the constitution and allowing peasants working on collective or state farms to acquire plots and turn it into their own hereditary property, the Kremlin leadership hopes to raise farm productivity.

The Supreme Soviet legislature first voted separately on each chapter of the 52-article measure, then approved the entire law 349-to-7 with 12 abstentions.

Wednesday's four-hour session was the third time the Supreme Soviet considered the proposed so-called law on land. During debate on the bill earlier this month, about 150 proposals and criticisms were made.



Let me have a chip

A young Russian boy is hammering at the Berlin Wall in order to get some pieces before the dismantling of the wall in East Berlin. This section is one of the last still standing between Brandenburg Gate and Reichstag and will be destroyed as the works continue. (Reuters wirephoto)

Resembling 'Red October' thriller

Mutiny on Soviet warship

MOSCOW, Feb 28, (Reuters): A KGB general has publicly revealed for the first time that mutineers seized a modern Soviet warship and headed toward the West, to be halted only when the Kremlin sent warplanes on the attack.

Firing cannons and bombs, air force planes blocked the would-be defectors in a real-life drama strikingly similar to the plot of a best-selling US thriller and film "The Hunt for Red October."

Details of Russia's mutiny on the high-seas 15 years ago were published by Izvestia, the Soviet govt newspaper daily yesterday.

A rebel navy captain who declared his warship "independent" was later shot by firing squad when the uprising was put down.

New York correspondent A. Shalynov, who wrote the article, concluded it was said that in the West events were written about "which occur in our country but about which we ourselves know nothing."

The plot of Tom Clancy's novel, filmed starring Sean Connery, centres on a superpower tug-of-war over the submarine Red October, whose captain decides to defect to the West.

Major-General A. Boriskin of the KGB security police wrote in a commentary in Izvestia that he fully agreed with the opinion of the daily's correspondent that people must know the truth and proceeded to give the "facts."

He said that on November 8-9, 1975 the deputy commander of the big submarine-hunter Storozhevoi, captain third class Valery Sablin, took over the ship in the Baltic Sea headed towards Sweden but was forced to halt by gunfire and warplanes.

"Yes, warplanes were used but the bombs dropped not on the ship but on the sea," Boriskin wrote.

"There was no damage," he said, and the casualty was Sablin who was shot in the leg by the Storozhevoi commander.

The military collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR on July 13, 1976, found Sablin guilty and sentenced him to death by firing squad as an accomplice, Seaman R. Serey, was sentenced to eight years in prison," Boriskin wrote.

In addition, 11 officers and 11 warrant officers who helped Sablin in the plot were investigated but charges were dropped, the general said.

in the Baltic Sea headed towards Sweden but was forced to halt by gunfire and warplanes.

"Yes, warplanes were used but the bombs dropped not on the ship but on the sea," Boriskin wrote.

"There was no damage," he said, and the casualty was Sablin who was shot in the leg by the Storozhevoi commander.

The military collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR on July 13, 1976, found Sablin guilty and sentenced him to death by firing squad as an accomplice, Seaman R. Serey, was sentenced to eight years in prison," Boriskin wrote.

In addition, 11 officers and 11 warrant officers who helped Sablin in the plot were investigated but charges were dropped, the general said.

Prodigal son returns

Olivier makes up with papa Lapidus

PARIS, Feb 28, (Reuters): "My advice to any son would be — if you want to get on with your father, buy up his business," quips Olivier Lapidus.

The 31-year-old fashion designer learnt early that being the son of the celebrated — Ted Lapidus was not necessarily going to help him make his way in the cut-throat world of French fashion.

In fact his father did all he could to stop him.

He refused to pay for Olivier's studies and when he graduated from fashion school in 1983, keen to set up his own couture house, Ted took him to court, arguing that he had no right to use the name his father had built up as an internationally-recognised brand over the years.

Snubbed by the other fashion houses, Olivier was forced to work abroad — proving he could make it on his own by launching a successful ready-to-wear men's clothing line in Asia under the pseudonym "Olivier Montagu".

But the prodigal son came home, and with the backing of French businessman Frantz Baha, he turned the tables on his father last year, setting up his own establishment and buying out the Ted Lapidus business.

Now Olivier does the designing for both names and has laid to rest a lifetime of rivalry between the two men.

"I've never had better relations with my dad," says Olivier.

"I can never forget what happened but I recognise that my father is an exceptional man, a genius, and like all geniuses there's a destructive side to his character. Even if he attacked me and wanted to destroy me, he's my father and I love him."

Olivier works from an elegant studio on the avenue George V, the very spot where legendary designer Cristobal Balenciaga, one of his role-models, was based in the 1930s.

Bright rolls of material are stacked in confusion under the ivory drapes and chandeliers, while the office walls are covered with sketches of 75 outfits Olivier is preparing for March's ready-to-wear autumn and winter collection, his second attempt



Olivier Lapidus. (Reuters wirephoto)

and beauty, quips for a mother and another big fashion name, Torrence, as an aunt, he was born into the de.

"When I was a child my room was where they stored the materia. I started cutting at the age of four and I was a half."

In his late teens, Olivier tried to throw off his father's shadow by concentrating on philosophy and literature. But he says, when Ted refused to finance his studies he earned pocket money by making dresses.

"At that point I realised I'd be a bad politician, a second-rate teacher. Designing interested me as an essential part of my intellectual life. The profession of a designer is to me, I didn't go to it."

Olivier is the youngest designer to win entry to the exclusive Chambre Syndicale which organises the four Paris collections each year.

"Some people think I am a very decorative image of woman — someone who is nothing, read nothing, knew nothing. That's over now — the modern woman does what she wants."

"When I make a dress I think of a woman of my age and how she would make me want to look to her. When I design the evening dress I think I would like her to make me fall madly in love with her."

Eventually he set up his own haute couture house — a feat only affordable to the lucky few as these astronomical prices rarely turn a profit. The idea that mass-produced ready-to-wear can ever approach the artistry put into individual hand-crafted clothes.

"Haute couture is the point of an iceberg, it's the summit, the summit of artistry. If it disappeared it would be a tragedy for the world's culture — like theatre vanishing or Brizaio's chopping making."

He predicts the end of the cynicism of the 1980s, the 1990s will see a return to more moral values — an appreciation of the craftsmanship and the importance of relationships, couples and the family.



On guard

A massive banner of ANC leader Nelson Mandela stares down on two of his bodyguards during a rally showing support for Mandela. The guards have accompanied the freed nationalist

ANC will not yield any more: Mandela

LUSAKA, Zambia, Feb 28, (AP): South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela said today the African National Congress will make no concessions in negotiations with the government until it is put on an equal footing with President F.W. de Klerk's ruling National Party.

Mandela, on the second day of his first foreign trip in almost 30 years, said his organisation was prepared to hold full-scale talks only if its preconditions were met first.

"The simple position is that until South Africa complies with the preconditions we have set the ANC is not in the same position as the National Party," he told reporters after meeting with seven African presidents and Commonwealth leaders in Lusaka.

Flanked by Kaunda, he said whatever political or security problems the government faced in South Africa, the ANC "cannot be expected to make any concessions."

Mandela is in Zambia to confer with exiled ANC leaders at their external headquarters.

The veteran nationalist reiterated that the ANC was demanding the lifting of the state of emergency, the release of all political prisoners and a general amnesty for exiles selected to take part in preliminary talks with De Klerk.

He said exiles the ANC wanted to participate in the initial stages of the talks risked prosecution for offences not covered by the ending of a 30-year ban on the ANC and other restrictions.

Mandela said the refusal to accommodate the ANC demands showed "it is quite clear the government is not yet prepared to meet us."

Mandela, 71, freed by De Klerk as part of sweeping reforms, defended his support for Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, who arrived in Zambia yesterday to meet with him.

He challenged South Africa's powerful Jewish community to "face the truth squarely."

"I believe there are many similarities between our struggle and that of the PLO. We live under a unique form of colonialism in South Africa as well as in Israel," he said.

Mandela also defended the ANC's call for continued economic sanctions to pressure the Pretoria government into taking substantive steps to dismantle apartheid.

He said Britain's unilateral decision to lift an investment ban was a matter the ANC would take up directly with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Thatcher has argued that sanctions hurt South Africa's 28 million blacks the most and said that an easing of sanctions would encourage De Klerk to press ahead with reforms that have included Mandela's release after 27 years in jail and the partial lifting of the state of emergency.

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, chairman of the six-nation African front-line bloc ranged against South Africa, told reporters Mandela briefed the frontliners on the ANC's responses to De Klerk's reforms in a two-hour meeting at his official Lusaka residence.

Mandela also met with members of a nine-nation committee on Southern Africa set up by the 49-nation Commonwealth of former British territories chaired by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatmi Mohamad.

That meeting also lasted about two hours.

Kaunda said the Commonwealth leaders and frontliners — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — endorsed the ANC's policy on economic sanctions and agreed there should be no easing of punitive measures until a review meeting scheduled for the United Nations General Assembly on July 30.

Protesters threw rocks and clashed with police, and at least six people were injured, as rival black factions fought for control of black townships in Natal province, police said today.

Two black men were killed and a third man was wounded when police opened fire yesterday on protesters who hurled rocks at police patrols near Durban in Natal in the southern part of the country, police officials said.

Rival factions set fire to houses and huts in several townships and police used guns, rubber bullets and tear-gas to disperse mobs that attacked police patrols, the officials said.

Soviet no to united Germany in Nato

MOSCOW, Feb 28, (Reuters): A leading Soviet expert on German affairs has warned that Moscow will not accept a united Germany with Nato tactical nuclear weapons remaining in the Western half.

And a German studies professor, interviewed by a daily newspaper today, suggested Soviet troops should stay in what is now East Germany after unification to ensure the Warsaw Pact's security.

Their comments reflected increasing Soviet alarm, also voiced by President Mikhail Gorbachev last week, that Moscow's security interests were about to be trampled in the rush to German unification.

Nikolai Portoglov, an adviser on German affairs to the Communist Party Central Committee's international department, told Novosti news agency that Moscow could not accept demilitarisation of its ally East Germany while a nuclear-armed West Germany remained.

"No one in Nato should cherish hopes that the USSR would accept the situation whereby Germany carries on stuffed with nuclear weapons in both its parts, the GDR (East Germany) is demilitarised and West Germany remains in possession of such weapons," he said.

"We cannot accept the situation whereby the movement towards German unity does not change the military status of West Germany and Nato equipped with nuclear weapons, including tactical ones still located in West Germany," Portoglov added.

East Germany's armed forces, the pride of the Warsaw Pact until just a few months ago, are falling apart as men desert in their thousands and discipline collapses, Nato sources say.

"The East German Army has stopped functioning as a military machine," said one senior Nato official with access to detailed intelligence reports. "It is amazing — unlike anything else in Eastern Europe."

Bush against border change

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (AP): President George Bush reiterated yesterday that it opposes redrawing the borders of Europe, and the visiting mayor of West Berlin criticised Chancellor Helmut Kohl for not offering a firm assurance to Poland.

Bush told congressional leaders that the US position on the issue was unequivocal. Later, Bush met with visiting Mayor Walter Momper, who emerged from the White House criticising Kohl's remarks at the Camp David presidential retreat on Sunday.

"I think that the chancellor should have said that he and the federal republic wants to guarantee the western borders of Poland," said Momper, whose Social Democrat Party is the liberal opposition to Kohl's ruling Christian Democrats.

Momper asserted that "nobody in Germany" wants to change the borders and criticised Kohl for failing to say so.

However, some conservative West Germans have said they will continue to work for return of parts of present-day Poland that were given to Warsaw when Germany was split up after World War II.

Poland has sought assurances that a unified Germany would not seek the former German lands, and wants a role in the negotiating process leading up to

UN panel's new call for curbs

Vote against Pretoria

GENEVA, Feb 28, (AP): The 43-nation UN Human Rights Commission voted 35-2 yesterday to issue a new call for widened international sanctions against South Africa to support the country's black majority in fighting apartheid policies.

The text approved by the commission welcomed the release of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and the lifting of some restrictions on anti-apartheid groups, but said sanctions already adopted by "certain countries are commended to the wider international community for urgent adoption and implementation."

Britain and the United States were the only commission members to oppose the resolution, which urged that existing measures against South Africa not be relaxed "until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible change."

Quit France order to Gabon leader

PARIS, Feb 28, (UPI): France expelled Gabonese opposition leader Pierre Mamboundou to Senegal today on grounds of "public security needs" and involvement in unacceptable political activities against Gabonese President Omar Bongo, Interior Ministry sources said.

Bongo in October accused Mamboundou, 44, of plotting to assassinate him and overthrow the institutions of the West African country formerly considered a model of stable government.

Civic group to make New York city livable once again by combatting rudeness

NEW YORK, Feb 28, (AP): The brusque, even surly, mien that typifies New York has gone from idiosyncrasy to shame, says a new group that has formed to encourage New Yorkers to miz their manners.

"There is no reason for us to accept the breakdown in this city," Herbert Rickman declared yesterday in announcing formation of New York pride and an advertising campaign to crack down on bad manners.

He described the foundation as a citizen army whose objective is "to make New York livable once again."

One element of the breakdown, Rickman said, is that pervasive nastiness is threatening the city's extremely lucrative tourism business.

"When you look at exit surveys and people are asked, 'why don't you want to come back?' One of the reasons is the rudeness and the meanness," said Rickman, a lawyer who was former Mayor Edward I. Koch's special assistant.

In addition to the daredevil bicycle messengers who imperil pedestrians as they dart through traffic, the unfriendly cab drivers and cranky bus rider, bicyclists, other examples of typical big-town rudeness will be featured in television ads.

As they are shown, the song "Try a Little Tenderness" is played and a soothing voice admonishes, "come on New York, ease up. Let's keep this the world's greatest city."

The foundation will operate on a "bare bones" budget of about \$250,000 from donated office space, Rickman said.

Along with its civility campaign, the foundation plans to get 30,000 new trees planted around town this year and produce a weekly radio talk show beginning next month. Future projects include anti-litter and anti-graffiti campaign in every neighbourhood of the city, said Ralph Destino, chairman of Carrier

New York Philharmonic conductor Zubin Mehta, one of the celebrities at the foundation's kickoff meeting, said he told Rickman he wasn't sure at first the effort was necessary.

"When you come from Bombay, New York is pristine," Mehta said. "And in Bombay, we talk about Calcutta that way — if you've been to Calcutta, Bombay is paradise."

But Mehta conceded that he was soon convinced because, for one thing, it would be nice to get a smile from a cabbie.

"They should say thank you when you tip them," said Mehta. "And they should know where they are going."

As they are shown, the song "Try a Little Tenderness" is played and a soothing voice admonishes, "come on New York, ease up. Let's keep this the world's greatest city."

The foundation will operate on a "bare bones" budget of about \$250,000 from donated office space, Rickman said.

Along with its civility campaign, the foundation plans to get 30,000 new trees planted around town this year and produce a weekly radio talk show beginning next month. Future projects include anti-litter and anti-graffiti campaign in every neighbourhood of the city, said Ralph Destino, chairman of Carrier

Gulf health ministers urge clamp on smoking ads

Kuwait Health Week to begin soon

RIYADH, Feb. 28. (Kuna): Health ministers of the seven Arab Gulf countries today recommended that their governments clamp heavy dues on tobacco products and prevent smoking ads in the local newspapers.

The recommendation, which symbolised an extensive kick-the-butt campaign in the Gulf countries, came

at the end of a two-day conference of the health ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar.

The ministers also discussed health education plans and recommended production of television programmes on drugs and the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids), said Dr

Jalal Al Ashi, secretary-general of the Arab Gulf Health Ministers Council at the end of the conference here this morning.

The ministers agreed on a uniform programme for purchasing medicines and medical equipment, he added.

The conference, the 28th session of the Gulf Health Council, adopted

several resolutions regarding the fight against meningitis as a number of preventive measures were agreed in view of recurrent reports of meningitis cases in the region, Ashi said.

The conferees also talked about childcare and reviewed a study on children fatality rate in the region. Polio vaccines for foreigners coming to work

and live in the region were mentioned, he added.

Health day
Meanwhile, head of health awareness division at the Ministry Dr Hussein Al Momen yesterday that Kuwait's celebration of this year's World Health Day, a Kuwait Health Week will exceptionally start

of the beginning of March.

He added, in a news conference, that the events was to avoid their coincidence with the fasting month of Ramadan.

Momen indicated that the ministry, through its interest in such an international event, has formed several

committees and prepared a number of programmes for that purpose.

It is noteworthy to mention that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has devoted this year's health day for environmental health awareness in order to help people, world-wide, would learn and understand the importance of preserving their natural habitat.

US study supports operations on Floks

AN opthalmological study carried out in the US has supported the effectiveness of radial keratotomy — the most frequent operation now being performed on board the Floks floating eye hospital berthed in Jebel Ali.

The operation, pioneered by Soviet eye surgeon, Professor Svyatoslav Fyodorov, is recommended to reduce levels of short-sightedness.

The US study is based on four years of investigation by researchers from Emory University in Atlanta. Its results have been published this week in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Researchers interviewed more than 700 patients who underwent the surgery between March 1982 and October 1983 at an average cost of US\$2,000 per eye. Results showed that visual sharpness was improved to better than 20-40 in almost four-fifths of the cases.

Infections developed in two patients, who were successfully treated with antibiotics without vision loss.

Among the 323 patients who had both eyes operated on, 64 per cent said they were no corrective lenses four years after the surgery.

"Our study and others have demonstrated fairly well that there are some adverse outcomes, but they are relatively rare," said John Carter, the study co-ordinator.

"Radial keratotomy is generally thought to be a safe, effective procedure and it does result in the reduction of myopia," he added.

More than 800 patients have undergone the operation on board the Petr Perry since it docked in Jebel Ali last October at an average cost of US\$800 per eye. The 10,000-tonne vessel, a former car carrier, was converted into a floating eye hospital last year at a cost of US\$12.75 million. The project is the brainchild of Professor Fyodorov who pioneered radial keratotomy almost 15 years ago.

Move Fana HQ: Mena

CAIRO, Feb. 28. (Kuna): The Egyptian Middle East News Agency (Mena) yesterday called for temporarily moving the Federation of Arab News Agencies (Fana) headquarters from Beirut to the Arab League headquarters in view of the continuing civil war in Lebanon which adversely affected Fana's secretariat activities.

Mena, in a dispatch from Sanaa, where the 18th general assembly of Fana was opened earlier yesterday, called for distributing Arab news to foreign agencies in return for certain fees.

Mena's Board Chairman and Chief Editor Mustafa Nagib, in his opening remarks to the two-day conference, said that each Arab country should distribute a news bulletin through its national agency to the foreign agencies.

Nagib's papers also included proposals for a fund to develop Arab News Agencies and guarantee inter-Arab flow of news in addition to the spread of Arab news abroad.

Fana Chairman Barges Al Barges called for full co-ordination among Arab news agencies on the professional and political spheres and united stances to confront dangers facing the Arab nation at the information level, topped by the Soviet Jews immigration to occupied Palestine.



Civil defence training

The Police Academy organised a training course on civil defence. The course which is the fifth of its kind held at the academy is attended by 21 police officers and two officers from the Defence Ministry. The assistant director-general of the Police Academy Col Ali Yacoub Abdulla opened the course. The opening was attended by a number of senior officers of the academy.

Flag lowered to end N. Day celebrations

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (Kuna): The flag was lowered this evening in a popular celebration at the "Green Island" marking the formal end of Kuwait's 29th National Day festivities.

Head of the Celebrations Standing Committee, Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah attended.

Taking part in the event were musical bands of the army and police, as well as national guards and military academy cadets.

Firework went on at 6 pm.

In New Delhi Indian Vice-President Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma and several political leaders attended a reception hosted by Kuwait Ambassador to India Ali Zakari Ali Ansari on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day here last night.

Diplomats from various Arab and Muslim countries, the United States and leaders of several political parties, including upper house deputy chairperson Dr Najma Heptullah, and others attended the reception.

The ambassador and conseller Mithal Othman Al Ruman received the guests at the embassy premises.

The vice-president also exchanged views with the ambassador on friendly ties between the two countries.

Kuwait's Ambassador in Damascus Ahmed Abdul Aziz

Al Jassem today highlighted his country's leading role in Arab world politics and praised the steadily growing ties between Kuwait and Damascus.

The ambassador, in a statement marking Kuwait's 29th National Day celebrated last Sunday, noted that since HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed assumed leadership 12 years ago, Kuwait has experienced several political, economic and social achievements which elevated its regional and international standing.

Jassem also underscored Kuwait's wholehearted support for the Palestinian cause and its efforts to help halt the destruction of Lebanon.

Kuwait employed its chairmanship of the Organisation of Islamic Conference to cater to the interests of Muslims in all parts of the world, the diplomat added.

Jassem said relations between Syria and Kuwait are "a good example" of how ties should be between two Arab countries bound by common fate and future.

He said officials from both sides would not spare an opportunity to further consolidate those ties.

In Dhaka, the ambassador of Kuwait in Bangladesh Mohammad Ebraheem Al Najran hosted a dinner reception at his

residence on the occasion of Kuwait's 29th National Day.

Dr Azizur Rahman, Minister of Health and Family Planning of Bangladesh was the chief guest on the occasion. A large number of senior civil and military officials, Arab and foreign diplomats, judges, lawyers, educationists, political personalities, journalists and some leading elite of society also attended the reception.

The reception held for the first time at the residence of the ambassador unlike past practice, was marked by a joyous mood among the guests. A welcome rain turned the evening cool and pleasant.

The ambassador's residence was tastefully decorated and illuminated.

The national flags of Kuwait and Bangladesh flanked the portraits of the Amir of Kuwait and the Bangladesh President at the entrance where the Kuwaiti ambassador greeted all the guests.

The guests were also entertained with a documentary film on Kuwait.

Bangladesh television telecast the speech of the ambassador on the occasion and showed a documentary film sent by the Ministry of Information, in Kuwait.

Some national dailies and weeklies also brought out special supplements.

Israel ties Czech envoy defends decision

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (Kuna): Czechoslovakia's Ambassador to Kuwait Tomas Strakos decided to resume diplomatic relations with Israel and said Prague aims to achieve "balanced relations" with all concerned parties in the Middle East.

In an interview with a local daily Strakos described the PLO's political initiatives as "very important" and stressed that any solution without the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation will not lead to a just settlement in the Middle East.

The Czech ambassador, who repeated his country's support to the PLO, hoped that President Yasser Arafat would visit Prague as soon as possible to discuss the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the ambassador said that his country "does not have anything to do with this issue."

He described the Jewish exodus as "very serious" and called for direct talks between the Soviet Union and the concerned countries to solve this problem.

Commenting on his country's relation with Kuwait, Strakos praised HH the Amir's initiative to solve the international debt problem and said Sheikh Jaber's proposals before the United Nations were "very valuable."

Pharmacy needs to be discussed at meeting

THE Minister of Planning and Acting Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi will preside over a meeting next week to discuss the ministry's pharmaceutical needs; pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians.

A local daily has of late published an article which listed conditions for the recruitment of pharmacists and detailed the new pharmacist field training system. This stipulated that the pharmacist should have completed five years of university study in pharmacology and graduated with good grade or completed three years of practice in a health institution. Additionally, he would have to pass the initiation tests endorsed by the ministry.

The article also provided that the trainee-pharmacist will get KD150 as monthly salary during the first year, and that the amount will increase by KD50 each year.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed said that the Council of Ministers will discuss tomorrow a draft bill for regulating the country's judicial system.

He told a local daily that the council would go over the draft bill with a fine-tooth comb, as it contained numerous items, and that it had already been referred to the competent cabinet committee for consideration following the preparation and formulation of related texts and provisions.

He said that the draft bill had already been considered by the judicial council and all competent judicial authorities and a copy sent to the department of Legal Advice and Legislation for comments.

Transport planning needed for development: Yaseen

Traffic safety course

By Lima (Chaleh) Arabes staff

IDENTIFYING problems and searching for pragmatic solutions are vital elements defined to enter the transportation planning process, Dr Saleh Yaseen of Faculty of Engineering, Kuwait University said in a lecture the second day of a traffic seminar.

The seminar, the Traffic and Safety Course, police officers were held at Kuwait University and focused on transportation planning process and its relation to urban development and long term projects.

Speaking at the transportation planning, Yaseen said that it involves the creation of highways within a framework of transit facilities serve present and future traffic and road

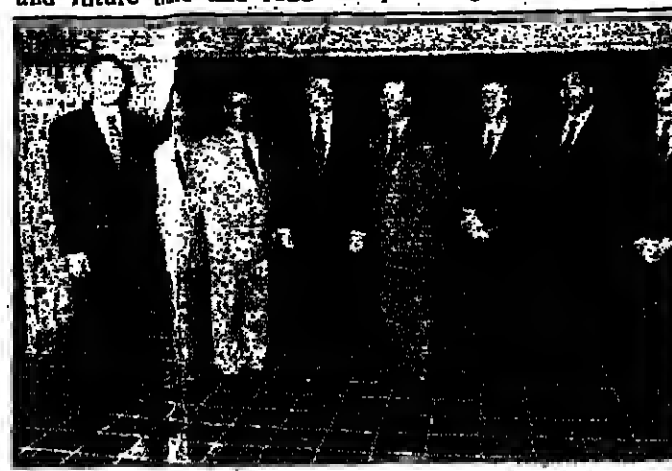
infrastructure. As an example, he cited the case of the construction of a new shopping centre, or airport or convention centre and said that any of these facilities will essentially take into consideration the need for viable transportation services. These would have to take into consideration the flow of traffic in relation to expansion of roads and evaluate load-bearing stresses.

The official said that this urban transportation planning is concerned with two separate time horizons of short-term activity and long term projects.

Measures
Also speaking at the seminar, Dr Alan Nicholson of Canterbury, New Zealand, said that the primary safety measures to reduce accidents should reflect improved geometrical designs

especially at junctions, road surfaces texture, signposts and lighting. He added that secondary safety measures to reduce injury severity means using seat belts and regular car maintenance on the anti-lock brakes and tyres.

Nicholson said that there are three stages in the development of an accident reduction programme that include the following: the identification stage acts as a screen to reduce drastically the sites, route areas for detailed examination; diagnosis to analyse the symptoms of the accidents problem areas at each individual site. The final stage involves deciding on the optimum treatment at each individual site and the best programme of work with consideration of the costs and benefits as to the ideal budget involvement.



Workshop reception

A cocktail reception for travel agents and journalists was held yesterday at the Merit Hotel, Kuwait, as a prelude to a travel trade workshop, organised by the Hyatt Hotels and Resort, UAE. The hotel delegation seen here pictured with some of the guests.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (Kuna): HH the Amir today received Minister of Higher Education Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan who presented the winners of outstanding scientific performance prize for the year 1989 Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science.

The winners' prize comprise Dr Abdul Rahman Ahmad Al Ahmad in social and humanitarian science, Dr Saleem Marzook Al Tehi in administrative and economic science, Dr Malik Gholoorn Husin in engineering, Dr Adnan Al Said Hashim Al Akeel in physics and sport science, Dr Moudhi Nassir Burisley in anthropology, Dr Naji Saad Al Zeid in medical science. And the prizewinner in Arab Gulf research for 1988 Dr Fahd, Thaqib Al Thabi in humanitarian science.

Nujoma

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (Kuna): Namibia's President-elect Sam Nujoma left Kuwait at dawn today ending a single-day visit during which he conferred with HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed.

Sheikh Is receives

MANAMA, Feb. 28. (Kuna): The Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa received here today Director General of Kuwait's Civil Aviation Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah who is currently on a visit to Manama.

The official Gulf News Agency reported today that during the audience the Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa and Sheikh Jaber Mubarak exchanged friendly talks and reviewed the fraternal and brotherly relations linking the two countries.

The meeting was attended by senior Bahraini officials and Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Faisal Mohammad Al Hajj. Sheikh Jaber conferred last night with Development and Industry and Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Yousif Al Shirawi on the need to unify transportation means in the Arabian Gulf region, and the importance of providing air transport companies with most up-to-date equipment to help links among the countries in the region.

Omani envoy

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (Kuna): Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Khalid Ahmad Al Sabah today received at his office the Omani ambassador to Kuwait.

Mubarak message

CAIRO, Feb. 8. (Kuna): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak received a message last night from King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

The message was delivered by Saudi Ambassador to Egypt Assad Abu A Nassar during his meeting with Mubarak yesterday.

Radio Cairo said that the message dealt with exchanging views between the two leaders to serve Arab and Islamic nations.

Childhood seminar

THE Kuwait Society for the Advancement of Arab Childhood held its fourth seminar recently during the cultural season on the theme "The Arab Child's Nutrition" a local daily reported.

Dr Abdurhaman Musaiqer for Bahrain speaking at the seminar said that nutritional aspects of Arab children have not been accorded adequate concern by authorities and said that several factors contribute to malnutrition, the most serious being lack of awareness of the importance of nutrition among doctors, patients all play a major part in sickness such as anaemia, teeth decay and obesity.

Musaiqer called for heightened awareness campaigns to be carried out relating to nutrition programmes among maternity cases and advocated encouraging mothers to breast feed their babies instead of opting to use bottle-feeds.

Co-op sales over \$2m

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (Kuna): President of the Consumption co-operative Societies Union (CCSU) Saad Sawarej announced yesterday that the total 1989 CCSU's sales were eight per cent higher than the past year, an equivalent of KD650,556 (about \$2 million).

He told reporters the total profits of co-operatives reached KD262,910, an increase of 20 per cent against 1988 profits which were KD439,632, while net profits increased 10 per cent, recording KD260,711 up from 236,281 in the previous year.

He added that the co-operative movement proves every year and in light of these new numbers that it is achieving a constant progress as sales rose from KD213 million in 1988 to 230 million in 1989.

Haroon tour

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (Kuna): Undersecretary of Higher Education, Mosaed Rashid Al Haroon will leave here Friday on a tour of Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

During his visits, Haroon will meet with officials of higher education ministries in four countries and get acquainted with activities of their establishments in addition to meeting the Kuwaiti students studying in these countries.

Arab envoys meet ILO delegation in Geneva

GENEVA, Feb. 28. (Kuna): The Council of Arab ambassadors accredited to the United Nations in Geneva yesterday held a two-hour meeting along with an Arab delegation to the 245th session of the governing body of the International Labour Office (ILO).

Ambassador of Kuwait, Sheikh Salem Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who chaired the meeting, said the main issue discussed was concerning the proposal to hold a special sitting of the International Labour Conference at

its 77th session this year for the consideration of the director-general's report on the situation of the workers in the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories.

It may be recalled that during the last session of the governing body of the ILO in November last year, the Arab group had moved a draft resolution for closer examination of the worsening conditions of workers in the occupied Arab territories.

The resolution had also noted

the obstacles faced by the ILO in the implementation of a programme of technical co-operation in these territories.

At the current session of the ILO governing body, which started Tuesday and will go on till March 2, the question of holding a special sitting of the labour conference in June this year on the situation of workers in the occupied territories, will come up for discussion in the next few days.

A decision on this issue was deferred during the last governing body session to allow sufficient time for procedural matters. The governing body is composed of 54 members — 28 from governments and 14 each representing employers and workers. The chairman of the governing body for this year is Douglas Poulter from Australia.

Also among those who participated in the meeting of Arab ambassadors today was a three-member team from Kuwait.

Plax — new concept in oral hygiene

THIS month sees the launch in the Gulf region of a major new brand and proven concept in the oral hygiene market. A unique anti-plaque, pre-brushing, dental rinse, which is not a mouth wash and is known as Plax. Already it has taken the USA, Europe and Japan by storm, becoming a \$400 million market leader within two years of its introduction and is already recommended by 56 per cent of US dentists.

Plax is used prior to brushing teeth and helps to loosen and detach plaque, the sticky, colourless and harmful bacteria that forms on teeth. By simply rinsing with Plax for 30 seconds prior to brushing it loosens and softens plaque so that, when you brush, more plaque will be detached than just by brushing alone.

Research shows that the average consumers brush their teeth for only a few seconds and rarely use dental floss. The use of dental floss two or three times a week and brushing teeth twice a day for at least two

minutes can help cut down on plaque. However, brushing teeth twice a day still doesn't deal with plaque, which can lead to serious oral hygiene problems.

Strict controlled dental tests have proven that Plax not only brightens teeth by removing plaque, but also prevents tartar, leaving the teeth healthy and clean.

Now Plax, a world leader in pharmaceuticals has developed an answer to this problem — Plax.

The launch of Plax, which will be widely available from supermarkets, pharmacies and co-operatives coincides with increasing interest in oral hygiene education amongst government health ministries and part of the Plax campaign will be aimed at increasing awareness amongst families and children about the importance of proper oral hygiene.

LANGOLITA

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LONELINESS and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty — Mother Teresa, Yugoslav-born Roman Catholic nun-missionary (1910—).

Miseries compounded War ravages Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan. (AP): In his tiny shop, a rough wooden box in which he can barely stand erect, 9-year-old Amidullah polishes and repairs shoes. Amidullah became the chief breadwinner for his mother and seven brothers and sisters when his father died in a car crash two months ago.

Life in Afghanistan has never been easy, except for the privileged few in the days of the monarchy, and now for the Communist Party elite and a handful of merchants.

But today the traditional, hard-scrabble existence in an ancient land synonymous with mystery, in *trigue* and adventure is compounded by a war without end, a war that has produced neither victor nor vanquished on the battlefield in more than a decade.

Most of the young men seen in Kabul these days are in military uniform. As often as not, the ones in civilian clothes are hopping along between crutches, a foot or an entire leg lost to the land mines.

Misery
In a factory employing about 1,000 women to sew army uniforms outside a military base, only 20 per cent of the seamstresses are married but about 50 per cent have become pregnant, according to a woman who shakes her head sadly as she talks of what she and others say is a disturbing new phenomenon in Kabul — prostitution.

Afghanistan's descent into the misery of war and its consequences began in 1975 when Mohammad Daoud deposed his cousin, King Zahir Shah, while the monarch was out of the country. Five years later, in April 1978, Daoud was assassinated in a coup by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, a replica of Moscow's Communist Party.

In Dec 1979, the Soviets sent troops to Afghanistan to rescue their protégés from internal power struggles and a fight-until-death onslaught by the Muslim rebels now supported by the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

In the 12 years since the 1978 coup, officially referred to as the Saur Revolution after the Afghan month in which it was staged, the party has changed leaders three times, twice by assassination and once in a Soviet-backed power play that propelled secret police chief Najib to the presidency in 1986.

The Soviets withdrew their combat soldiers a year ago, leaving President Najib's forces to fight alone against the mujahedeen, or Islamic holy warriors. To the dismay and surprise of Washington, Najib's army and air force not only held their own against the mujahedeen but expanded their control, re-opening vital supply routes and making deals with local militia commanders.

But the price has been high. The government says 50 per cent of its budget goes to the war effort. The shattered economy has produced children and teenagers who out-earn their government-employed fathers by working as manual labourers and prostitutes; according to interviews conducted from the frost-bitten labyrinth of mud-brick houses in old Kabul to the heated rooms of the capital's elite.

Backward
"I think this war is making us more backward," said an East European-educated Kabul professional, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The generation of 12- to 15-year-olds, they will be illiterate. You will have a generation sick with non-education, with heroin and hashish. This is a result of — I don't know — war, revolution, government, people's hate. It's very sad."

In his little cubicle, barefoot Amidullah hands over a pair of gleamingly polished black boots to a customer.

The boy says he earns about 100 Afghanis a day, three times the amount his 12-year-old brother Wahidullah makes working in a bakery.

At the unrealistic official rate, Amidullah is making \$1.81 a day. At the more practical black market rate, he's earning about 20 cents.

Coupled with his brother's earnings, Amidullah said, "sometimes it's enough for food. Sometimes it's not enough."

In the muddy market lanes throughout the capital, small boys and old men compete for jobs pulling carts loaded with sacks of Soviet flour, boxes of West German food and Japanese television sets. Even shiny new red motorbikes are towed, rather than ridden to their showrooms by their owners.

On the outskirts of Kabul at the mujahedeen market, which got its name because the goods arrive from rebel-held territory, Said Omar is selling rock-like brown lumps of crudely refined sugar.

Family
Omar, 48, has four sons and three daughters. "Number eight child is coming," he said, a bright orange tarpaulin shielding him and 10-year-old Zalmi from the cold rain as they sat cross-legged on the cart holding their sugar.

"Some days I am not eating lunch, because if I eat lunch, my family won't have food," Omar said.

No one in Omar's family has been wounded in the war, but a few months ago rockets fell near his house. "I am afraid of the rockets," Omar said. "I made a sort of hole under my house. When the rockets come, I go with my family underground."

But there are pockets of affluence, of fancy houses, big cars, lavish weddings, glitzy sweaters and acid-washed blue jeans.

Mohammad Jamil reckons he has a good job because he works on commission selling automobiles instead of getting a salary, but times are still bad.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1553 — League of Heidelberg is formed by Catholic and Protestant princes in Germany to prevent election of Philip of Spain as Holy Roman Emperor.
- 1562 — 1,200 French Huguenots are slain at massacre of Vassy, provoking first war of religion in France.
- 1767 — King Charles III expels Roman Catholic Jesuits from Spain.
- 1799 — Turks and Russians complete conquest of Ionian Islands in Greece.
- 1811 — Mehmet Ali massacres the Manelukes at Cairo, Egypt.
- 1815 — Napoleon Bonaparte lands in France, forcing King Louis XVIII to flee.
- 1870 — War ends between Paraguay and combined forces of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.
- 1896 — Ethiopian forces defeat Italians at Adowa, northern Ethiopia, forcing Italy to sue for peace.
- 1932 — Infant son of US aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh is kidnapped from New Jersey home.
- 1943 — Britain's Royal Air Force begins systematic bombing of European railway systems in World War II.
- 1954 — First conference of Organisation of American States opens in Caracas, Venezuela.
- 1961 — US president John F. Kennedy establishes the peace corps.
- 1966 — Soviet Union lands one-ton spacecraft on planet Venus after three and one-half month flight.
- 1973 — Palestinian commandos invade diplomatic reception in Khartoum, Sudan, and capture five diplomats.
- 1986 — More exiles return to Philippines to support fledgling government of new President Corason Aquino.
- 1988 — South African government introduces bill to outlaw foreign funding of political activity.
- 1989 — UN General Assembly approves \$416 million for UN's one-year plan to free Namibia from 74 years of South African rule.

'Ballot is stronger than bullet' History proves Lincoln right

LONDON. (Reuters): Forget the nuclear missile, the chemical bomb and the "Star Wars" laser beam: the deadliest weapon of 1990 looks like being the humble ballot box.

Over the weekend, voters from Nicaragua to Lithuania showed that the 19th century American president Abraham Lincoln had a point when he said in 1856: "The ballot is stronger than the bullet."

In Nicaragua, the electorate threw out the leftist Sandinistas who had ruled since toppling a right-wing dictator 11 years ago, preferring the united national opposition of Violeta Chamorro by a margin of some 13 per cent.

In Lithuania, the Sajudis movement which backs independence from Moscow trounced the Communist Party in the first multi-party elections in Soviet history.

Both results look set to profoundly affect events in their particular regions. But they are just part of a radical process of change which is redrawing the world geopolitical map.

Free elections, long dismissed by radicals of both left and right as a luxury of the rich or a trick to frustrate the aspirations of the working class, are playing a key role in the process.

"The view that is coming out more and more from South Africa to the Soviet Union is that you cannot impose policies if there is no accountability to an assenting electorate," says Michael Meadowcroft of the London-based Electoral Reform Society.

Nowhere are elections more vital than in Eastern Europe, where the communist regimes that have ruled for 40 years are collapsing and newly emerged opposition parties are waiting to take over.

One country, Poland, has already voted. The election last June was intended to give the communists a built-in majority but the voting pattern made clear that they enjoyed almost no public support and they handed over power to the opposition Solidarity movement after two allied parties switched sides.

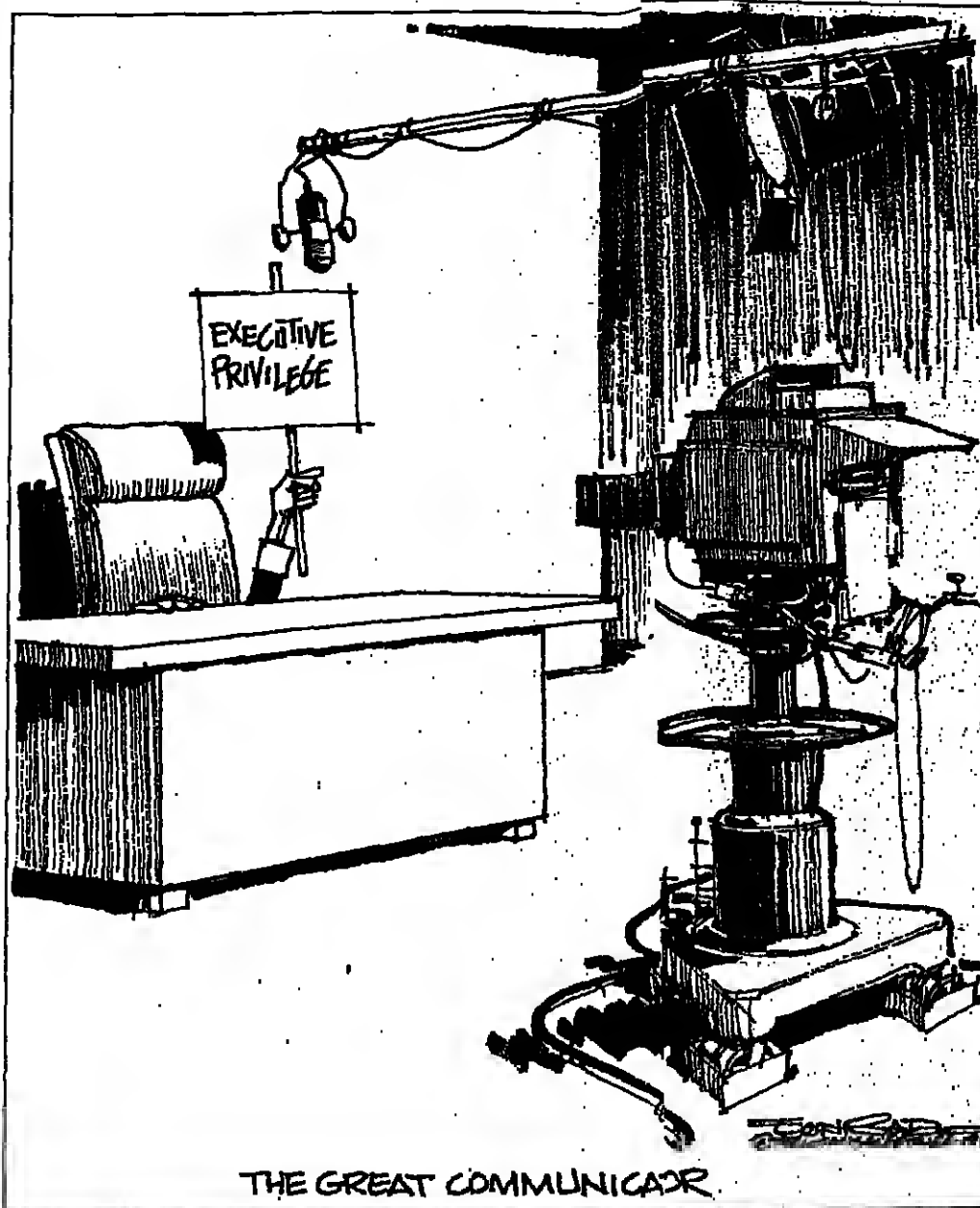
Elections are scheduled elsewhere in the region this spring. East Germany, first off the blocks on March 18, is expected to produce most dramatic results with the victors almost certain to steer the country to unification with West Germany.

Other East European countries will vote soon afterwards: Hungary on March 25, the Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia in April, Romania on May 20, Bulgaria in late May and Czechoslovakia on June 8.

Most or all of these elections are likely to see the communists voted out of power or reduced to minority roles in coalition governments, and will change the political colouring of Europe.

These trends have encouraged US President George Bush to propose that free elections be made part of the human rights obligations of all 35 states taking part in the European security conference.

Even the Soviet Union looks set to submit to the process in due course. The Communist Party voted



this month to drop its monopoly on power, paving the way for a multi-party system.

De facto multi-party elections will already be taking place in a number of the country's 15 republics this spring, with attention focused on Estonia and Latvia on March 18 to see whether they

follow the lead their neighbour Lithuania.

Leftists have not been the only losers in the drive towards democratic elections. In Chile last December, oppositionist Christian Democrat Patricio Aylwin won the presidential election to end 16 years of rightist militarism by Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

Letters to the editor

Cartoon argument

SIR: I am writing in response to Sohail Javed's argument against my previous letter about "images" in Islam.

On the contrary, brother Javed (and I call you my "brother" as I would call all my fellow Muslims), today that a cartoon Holy Quran is OK, and that your "opinion" isn't a stray from Islamic facts. And for your saying that I have taken a pessimistic view seems in itself to be pessimistic, due to your narrow view on the Islamic facts. Had I presented, which by the way, are not my personal opinions alone, but the scholarly opinions of the majority of Muslim scholars of today and yesterday.

When it comes to Islam we may not play with facts and misconstrue words to suit ourselves, but we must accept the fact that as God created us, so does he best know our natures as humans and therefore is the wisest to decide what is for our common best interest.

Mentioned
I never mentioned anything in my letter about photographs being prohibited in Islam, and did not even imply so — as this subject is a controversial one wherein the scholars have a difference of opinion.

Though even the strictest ones allow for photos where and when legal necessities, such as passports, drivers' licences, etc.

When I use the term "scholar" I don't mean just anyone who writes books about Islam, but learned people who have a great deal of understanding of Islam and have studied widely under other scholars and on their own (and not just PhDs either), and who through experience and study are considered wise.

Brother Javed, you must admit that neither one of us qualifies. The information I have stated in the past and now is based on scholarly opinion, which is based on clear evidence from the Holy Quran and hadith (prophetic traditions or sayings), and not, as you have accused me, from a pessimistic viewpoint.

Now, to answer your new arguments, first of all, the problem of idol-worship and the worship of men was not only a problem at the time of the Prophet (PBUH) but was before his time, and is up to the present time. This can easily be seen among the followers of religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism, even in Catholicism, although it goes under various guises, also, we can easily recall what some ignorant and not-so-ignorant people do with the giant framed portraits of people, both those who are famous and those who are our loved ones — look at the news...

picture boards of people carrying giant portraits of dead loved ones, wailing and screaming until they return home where they hang the portrait in a "mini shrine".

Yasser Arafat's Ayatollah Khomeini and other giant portraits being fawned over as people march down crowded streets chanting and beating themselves; ... and just look at our portrait of movie and rock music stars and how their adoring fans act towards those portraits and the respective people they depict. Just look at Elvis and the point is obvious.

These are just some of the reasons, my dear brother Javed, that Allah has forbidden such paintings and statues, and also has recommended in other ahadith not to hang any images including photos on walls, etc. (i.e. not to display them for any decorative purpose, etc.). It's not that Allah doesn't trust us, but Allah knows our weaknesses and yes, our deeds are accounted by our intentions, but Allah also puts safeguards into the system to ensure our success. That is why even one drop of alcohol is forbidden, although obviously one drop of alcohol doesn't intoxicate us. (And, as you said, in a life and death situation it could be drunk just to sustain life).

Also, I have never said that, from my own judgement, picture makers, painters, photographers, etc. would go to hell. I simply stated that an authentic hadith informs us that those who draw and sculpt live things will have such a fate. This fate is for those who are first of all, aware of the fact that what they are doing is forbidden by God, and still continue to do it in defiance of God's explicit command to refrain, nor do they ever repent or ask for God's forgiveness up to the day of their deaths. As for those who don't know about Islam, or have never heard this information, the matter will be decided by Allah, (not me or you) and will be based on several different points, such as what the person's intentions were, what they knew about Islam, whether they did so in order to lead people astray and harm people, or with an innocent mind etc.

As for pictures, photos, statues, etc. with regard to science, medicine, and other forms of education

where such may be necessary, scholarly opinion states that photos are fine as long as they aren't displayed on walls, etc., and other things such as drawings, models, etc. are fine with modifications. (For example, it would be proper to make such educational tools in segments, etc., i.e. a model of the respiratory system, another of the renal system), such being allowable and not falling into the same category as those other things. But this doesn't mean that a "cartoon Quran" could be considered educational, or that making drawings or cartoons of prophets or anything like that in the context of calling it a "Quran" is allowable in Islam.

And I will also point out here (to avoid any possible misunderstanding) that children's toys do not fall into the same category either as far as dolls, etc., so far as they are not for display, to be hung on the wall, only to be placed on a shelf to be looked at and admired, or are derogatory towards Islam and its teachings (such as the cartoon Quran, or perhaps little rubber figures of prophets and angels), but those toys, dolls, animals, etc. should be expressly and only for the purpose of play, and as I said before, this exception is only for children and has certain limitations as were stated. There are other details and intricacies that, for the sake of simplicity, I will not get into here.

So, as is always the fact, Islam takes the middle course, and Allah only forbids such things as He knows, in His all-encompassing knowledge, are either bad in and of themselves, are against our true nature, or will lead us to something wrong or dangerous. I suggest to brother Javed to read more about Islam from qualified scholarly works, to supplement to Holy Quran and the Sunna readings and not to take certain statements out of context. I urge him to remember that none of us is perfect, but we should all strive to be. Yes, people do have the right to their own point of view, but they don't have the right to call that Islamic unless it is.

Mia Posso,

P.O. Box 70,

Safat

where such may be necessary, scholarly opinion states that photos are fine as long as they aren't displayed on walls, etc., and other things such as drawings, models, etc. are fine with modifications. (For example, it would be proper to make such educational tools in segments, etc., i.e. a model of the respiratory system, another of the renal system), such being allowable and not falling into the same category as those other things. But this doesn't mean that a "cartoon Quran" could be considered educational, or that making drawings or cartoons of prophets or anything like that in the context of calling it a "Quran" is allowable in Islam.

And I will also point out here (to avoid any possible misunderstanding) that children's toys do not fall into the same category either as far as dolls, etc., so far as they are not for display, to be hung on the wall, only to be placed on a shelf to be looked at and admired, or are derogatory towards Islam and its teachings (such as the cartoon Quran, or perhaps little rubber figures of prophets and angels), but those toys, dolls, animals, etc. should be expressly and only for the purpose of play, and as I said before, this exception is only for children and has certain limitations as were stated. There are other details and intricacies that, for the sake of simplicity, I will not get into here.

So, as is always the fact, Islam takes the middle course, and Allah only forbids such things as He knows, in His all-encompassing knowledge, are either bad in and of themselves, are against our true nature, or will lead us to something wrong or dangerous. I suggest to brother Javed to read more about Islam from qualified scholarly works, to supplement to Holy Quran and the Sunna readings and not to take certain statements out of context. I urge him to remember that none of us is perfect, but we should all strive to be. Yes, people do have the right to their own point of view, but they don't have the right to call that Islamic unless it is.

Mia Posso,
P.O. Box 70,
Safat

Racial arrogance

SIR: With the world set agog with glee and happiness over the release from prison of Nelson Mandela, some prophets of doom have already started ringing the bell of destruction that they see lying ahead for South Africa in the event of a transfer of power to the black majority. These apostles of doom are by all intents and purposes apologists for apartheid who seeing the imminent collapse of this bogus philosophy, are trying to offer a last ditch defence.

Nobody is saying that the negotiations that the ANC and other organisations are hoping to conduct with the racist regime over the future of S. Africa is going to be a rosy one. Neither is anyone putting up the idea that Mandela is the panacea for all the problems of the black mass under apartheid. However, what is an unquestionable fact is that Mandela is the undisputed leader, if not of all of S. Africa, blacks but at least of a majority of them. For anyone therefore to question the authenticity of Mandela's leadership is either engaging in an intellectual juggling of being outrageously ignorant of what is happening in S. Africa today.

Commentary
In a commentary on the release of Mandela written for the British Daily Mail under the headline — "Stepping into a tribal minefield" (Daily Mail, Feb 12, 1990) the author, Paul Johnson, did not leave any doubt in the minds of readers that his commentary was nothing but an apology for apartheid. Nelson Mandela no doubt is a potent symbol of freedom for millions of blacks in S. Africa. But to Paul Johnson the opposite is the truth and he sees Mandela only as representing his less than three million Xhosa in-besmen. To the columnist Mandela's supposedly popularity among South African blacks is the creation of a biased international media. This observation, coming from no less a person than Paul Johnson, does not only sound ridiculous but outrageous especially when placed in the context of the teeming crowds of blacks that met to welcome him back to their fold as well as hear him preach his message of peace and goodwill.

Unless Paul Johnson wants us to believe that these multitudes of near hysterical blacks were transported in from Mandela's Transkei homeland, nothing can hold us back from concluding that Mandela is not only a representative of the Xhosa but also the unchallenged

leader of the oppressed blacks of S. Africa whose popularity transcends race, tribe, colour and religion. In this stated status Mandela can deliver black opinion to satisfaction of all except probably the few mentally unbalanced ones.

In an attempt to rationalise white brutality (army and police) against the Daily Mail's commentary opined that a antagonism between rival black groups is much fiercer than any hatred between black and white. And that vast majority of black victims of political violence killed not by the police or army but in tribal-inspired warfare. While it is true that many lives are lost a result of black against black violence, what cannot be denied also is the fact that much of this violence is officially inspired to create the impression of chaos and confusion in the ranks of blacks and hence justify the continuation of white suppression of blacks.

Hate
It is an undeniable fact that blacks in S. Africa do not necessarily hate because of the colour of their skins and in a similar vein they will not support fellow blacks who deviate from the mainstream standard of behaviour just because they are of the same colour. Instead of seeing intra-black violence as a sign of chaos and disunity, it is rather to be seen as the rebirth of the mainstream black politics to strike hard at anybody who they perceive or feel who stand on the way of their march towards the creation of a classless society in S. Africa. No liberation movement can afford to do with the Quislings and traitors in their fold and whenever such vampires raise their heads they have to be silenced with a firm resolute intra-black violence as demonstrated since from policy of containment and not from any inherent racial rivalry among them.

In explaining why it is not yet ripe for the introduction of one-man-one-vote in South Africa, the Daily Mail commentary said that the introduction of universal suffrage will lead to the destruction of the economy as in Mozambique, I do not know the basis upon which these conclusions were drawn but I know that these same fears were expressed in the wake of Zimbabwe's independence following the collapse of Ian Smith's minority government. Today however, the peaceful co-existence between blacks and whites in Zimbabwe is another story to tell.

Destruction
As for the likelihood of an impending destruction of the economy of S. Africa to what is happening in Mozambique, the least said is soonest mended. An average schoolboy with knowledge of contemporary affairs should know that the civil war in Mozambique is a creation of S. Africa, under its policy of destabilising the frontline states who are in the vanguard of the struggle against apartheid. The so-called Renamo movement is nothing but a band of lawless bandits carrying out the dirty job of their S. African masters.

The extension of equal rights to blacks, rather than creating chaos and confusion in Southern Africa, will lead to peace in the region as the reason for engaging in sabotage on both sides will be removed.

As already pointed out the road to the total emancipation of black S. Africa is not going to be a smooth one but with unity and resolve of purpose, victory will surely crown their efforts. In furtherance of this all S. African blacks must be told that no crumb, legitimate aspiration, which is the attainment of a classless society, should deter them from their goal, and on per se however powerful, should so dampen their spirits as to demoralise and frustrate them in the achievement of their cherished goal of a free S. Africa.

To the white supremacists who are prepared to hear nothing and force nothing, the message for them is that the world is no longer prepared to sit down unconcerned for them to practise their discredited theory of racial superiority.

Yakub Zibrin,

Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Benin allows political debate

COTONOU. (Reuters): Having brought the country to the brink of economic ruin, the government of Benin has thrown a tarpaulin over Lenin's statue and taken the wraps off the media and political debate.

The speed of the collapse of Marxism in this strip of West Africa has mirrored that in Eastern Europe and unleashed forces for peaceful change rarely seen in Africa.

"Africa has never seen anything like it," said one seasoned Western diplomat.

He was commenting on a unique event — an African president who has convened a conference to prepare a new constitution and general elections which could lead to his removal.

Conference
The conference last week brought together all strands of Beninese life from voodoo priests to exiled former presidents.

The novelty of unfettered political debate was matched only by the people's surprise at being allowed to follow it live and uncensored on radio.

For days civilians and soldiers moved through the streets of the main city Cotonou glued to their transistors.

The Voice of the Revolution Radio, which for 15 years had provoked only yawns, has suddenly swamped with congratulatory telephone calls from listeners exhilarated at hearing true news reports.

Vincent Dassi, editor of Radio News, said the reporting revolution came when frustrated journalists took their microphones into the streets during anti-government protests last December.

"We used live broadcasts as much as possible, interviewing people in the street... people were weary of the propaganda and lies and omissions and wanted truth," he said.

Such reporting is impossible in most of West Africa's one-party states where the media are an arm of government. Student demonstrations in the Ivory Coast last week were ignored by the media even though the whole country was talking about them.

Openness
A major reason why this openness flourished among Benin's four million people is simple according to Max Kinnif, leader of one of the many political parties which have sprung up in the past few weeks — "Western donors wanted it."

The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, France, the former colonial power here, West Germany and the United States insisted last year on political as well as economic reforms for pulling President Mathieu Kerekou's 17-year-old regime from the edge of the economic abyss.

Years of mismanagement and that a confidential World Bank report calls pervasive corruption have virtually bankrupted Benin.

People survive through agriculture and smuggling with Benin's neighbour Nigeria, black Africa's biggest economy. But state industries have collapsed along with the banking system and government workers' salaries are owed months in back pay, and many are unemployed.

Kerekou dropped Marxist-Leninism as the state ideology in December, agreed to convene the conference in February and annulled elected political opponents so that they could attend.

With the conference journalists saw the breach in the censorship and propaganda wall and poured through it.

"How rich are you?" one reporter asked a former minister in an interview about government corruption. To ask that question in Zaire, Ivory Coast or Cameroon is a form of professional suicide.

Rebellion-minded
"We Beninese are naturally rebellion-minded," said Dassi, recalling that Benin used to be called the Latin Quarter of French Africa.

December was when both people and reporters decided to cry out that the emperor had no clothes.

"The people knew they had not been paid, we at the radio knew we had not been paid yet there was a total lack of truth about the social unrest in the media," he said.

"We felt terribly humiliated that our people had to listen to French Radio to get the truth... we are as good as any foreign journalists at doing our job and we wanted to do it," Dassi said.

Calls for Kerekou's removal were reported daily from the conference.

Quote me
"We do not plan to use the militia against demonstrators, who we protect, but to take action against those turbulent individuals who prevent demonstrations from being held."

— A Romanian Interior Ministry statement on policy shift after ordering troops and police to put down demonstrations with force.

"We hope that the US administration will take more decisive and quicker practical steps to push the peace process forward and lessen the pain of the Palestinian people and end the Israeli occupation for the West Bank and Gaza Strip." — A PLO official to Reuters.

"We demand the immediate release of political prisoners and students and an end to inhuman torture of those arrested and the terror which these dictators are disseminating." — Nepalese medical students in a statement supporting pro-democracy movement.

"With the lifting of restrictions on political organisations, a significant step has been taken towards a situation in which normal political activity will become possible; it seems to us, therefore, that many of the arguments for continuing the armed struggle are falling away." — South African Bishops calling for an end to the armed struggle due to the reforms taking place.

"There is too little progress in the peace process and I am very optimistic that the US-Israeli-Egyptian meeting and the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo will be held soon." — senior PLO aide Bassam Abu Sharif.

"To allow violence to replace political debate at a time when we are closer than ever before to securing the right to make political choice through the ballot box is a recipe for disaster." — South African bishops on violence in Natal Province.

"As we travel, and as I write this, there are thousands of people across America fasting and praying for the success of my journey. I also bring with me greetings from the families of the hostages to their loved ones... you are all sent strength and love and hope. Do not despair for some day — soon please God — we will all be reunited. Be strong and keep the faith Terry, we love you." — Sister of Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press.

LANGOLITA

MIDEAST

UK, France back Arabs on Jewish influx

DOHA, Qatar, Feb. 28. (AP) The Amir, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, informed Jordan's King Hussein during talks today that the leaders of France and Britain support the Arab stand against the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel, the Qatar News Agency reported.

The agency, quoting a high-level Qatari official, said Sheikh Khalifa communicated the outcome of his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher particularly on the issue of the Soviet Jewish emigration to the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Amir "replied to his majesty their understanding and support of the Arab point of view," added the source, who was not named.

Hussein was in Qatar on the third leg of a tour of

the Arab countries of the Gulf region to set up an Arab plan with which to confront the influx. He earlier visited Kuwait and Bahrain and is to travel later to the United Arab Emirates.

The Qatari and Jordanian leaders discussed "with extreme concern the dangerous dimensions of the aggressive plot on which the government of Israel has embarked," said the Qatari official.

The two leaders "warned that such an aggressive action would complicate the efforts to reach a comprehensive and lasting Middle East peace settlement because it involves grave dangers and aggression on Palestinian rights while threatening the region's security," he said.

Hussein, calling for an urgent Arab summit conference to ratify a plan of action, stressed his cam-

paign with consultations in Riyadh with the influential Saudi Arabian monarch, King Fahd. The Amir of Qatar also backed the summit call, according to the agency report.

Over the weekend, Hussein hosted a summit for his partners in the year-old Arab Co-operative Council — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Statements by Egyptian and Palestinian leaders, as well as press reports indicate Arab intent to call a special UN Security Council session where guarantees would be sought to ensure that Israel does not settle the Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

The Arabs also seek international action in helping persuade the Soviet Jewish emigrants to settle in

countries other than Israel.

The Saudi Arabian newspaper Ashraq Al Awsat yesterday quoted "informed" sources in Cairo as saying that four Arab leaders, who met in Amman last week, wanted the summit to follow a visit to Moscow by Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak on March 19 to discuss the influx with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The daily said Mubarak would convey the views the leaders of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen.

A senior Israeli government official's prediction that 230,000 Soviet Jews could immigrate to Israel this year heightened fear today that Israel was unprepared for the influx.

DEAD WHALE

CAIRO, Feb. 28. (UPI) Egyptian authorities plan to mummify a whale found dead on a beach near the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria and display it in a local museum, a Cairo newspaper reported yesterday.

But a spokesman for the Alexandria municipal authority said only the skeleton of the whale would be put on display in Alexandria's maritime science museum, because the giant mammal's meat would be given away.

Scientists, together with the fire brigade and help from the security services, lifted the dead whale from the beach and it will be mummified," said the daily Al Wafd.

Drugs seized

NICOSIA, Feb. 28. (Reuters) Iranian officers have seized more than 2.5 tonnes of drugs and arrested 530 "merchants of death," or traffickers, in the past four days, Tehran Radio reported.

The radio said 4,863 drug addicts were also detained in the crackdown.

End persecution

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (Reuters) The US House of Representatives voted 401-0 on Tuesday for a resolution urging Iran to stop persecution of members of the Bahai faith.

The resolution expresses concern that the Islamic regime in Iran is persecuting the Bahai community, a minority in Iran and urges the Iranian government to extend human rights protections to members of the community.

Obstacles cleared

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 28. (AP) Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said yesterday UN chief Javier Perez de Cuellar cleared the way for progress in Cyprus talks by giving equal treatment to the breakaway Turkish side.

Denktash said that for the first time, Perez de Cuellar "has underlined that there are two politically equal communities in Cyprus, and that the problem is not between the majority and minority."

Campus unrest

TUNIS, Feb. 28. (Reuters) Tunisian Prime Minister Hamad Karoui has blamed the country's Islamic movement for a wave of student unrest.

Police detained at least 595 students last week when Islamic militants occupied 10 university buildings to press authorities to withdraw police from campuses, drop plans to move an Islamic Law Institute and institute students suspended earlier in the academic year.

Anti-US measures

ANKARA, Feb. 28. (Reuters) Turkey said today it would review measures it had taken against the United States after the US Senate blocked a resolution saying Armenians were victims of genocide early this century.

"The measures taken against the United States are now being assessed. Our final assessment will be clear within two or three days," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungur said.

Yelayati off to Ghana

NICOSIA, Feb. 28. (Reuters) Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left for Ghana today on the first leg of a five-nation African tour, the Iranian news agency Irna reported.

It said Velayati would also visit Senegal, Mali, Sierra Leone and Nigeria during his week-long trip.

Iran-Iraq talks

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 28. (AP) Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said yesterday he will contact Iran and Iraq to propose a two-month session of direct talks aimed at clearing the way for a permanent peace settlement between them.

Perez de Cuellar outlined his proposal for another round of Iranian-Iraqi talks during private Security Council consultations yesterday, but refused to provide details or a timetable.

Town recaptured

NAIROBI, Feb. 28. (Reuters) Rebels in northern Ethiopia said today they had recaptured the large town of Debre Tabor in Gondar province after a three-day battle.

The Tigry People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said in a statement that rebel forces defeated 12 Ethiopian army brigades and shot down two Soviet-built MiG-23 fighter bombers during the battle for Debre Tabor, which was recaptured.

Pohl doubts Iran information

GENEVA, Feb. 28. (AP) A special UN investigator conceded yesterday he may have been given false information by a top Iranian prosecutor who told him that no public executions had taken place in Iran since last fall.

"The statement by Hojatolislam Zargar, chief prosecutor for drug trafficking, had been cited in a largely inconclusive UN report on the human rights situation in Iran."

Salvadoran jurist Reynaldo Galindo Pohl who compiled the survey under a mandate from the UN Human Rights Commission said he learned only after his return from Iran late last month of reports that there had been further executions.

"This allegation should be investigated," he said, "but I was assured that no more public executions had taken place."

The Iraq-based Mujahideen Resistance Movement yesterday dismissed a list of more than 80 persons who it said were reported by Iranian media to have been executed since Jan 3.

Assad rules out East Europe-style change

Ties with Soviet Union strong, unchanged

DAMASCUS, Feb. 28. (Agencies) President Hafez Al-Assad has ruled out any East European-style political and economic change for Syria and said it would continue to develop its own brand of socialism.

In his first comments on the winds of change sweeping Eastern Europe, Assad told a group of retiring parliamentary deputies: "Socialism is not intended to oppress others. It is intended to remove oppression from the oppressed."

"I do not want today that we are practising the freedom we want. We always want more," he said.

Moscow's staunchest Arab ally and a hardline opponent of Israel, Assad, 59, has wielded power in Syria with an iron fist since taking over the country in a bloodless coup in 1970. He has also made Damascus a key factor in any eventual Middle East settlement.

The president said Syria's ties with the Soviet Union, its main arms supplier, were strong and unchanged.

"I want to confirm that everything between us and the Soviet Union is going on with the spirit of friendship and strong ties, which you know was existing for many years."

Some Western diplomats in the Middle East, however, expect Assad to cut ties with the Soviet Union.

Moscow to cut its ties with the Middle East client states and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

"We do not do anything because others are doing it. We do it when we are convinced that it reflects our belief and benefits our people... we do not do anything under the pressure of certain circumstances or at the suggestion of anyone."

But he said he wished the countries of Eastern Europe well and hoped relations with them would remain strong.

Assad's comments to deputies who ended their four-year term on Monday were carried by Syria's official news agency and reported today in local newspapers.

Baath Arab Socialist Party would discuss how to develop the Baath-led five-party ruling coalition to give more say to other parties.

Referring to the country's economic structure, Assad said Syria had three sectors, the public, the private and the joint public-private sectors.

"We will continue to encourage these three sectors and there is an urgent need to rally all our people's resources in serving the development of this country," he said.

"We built a political, party and popular system which we are satisfied with. We did not build it to rule despotically. The one who wants despotism would not build on such a base."

"We are not afraid of freedom but we are very afraid of the loss of freedom," Assad added.

"We do not have differences on this, but we are always searching for a formula (to practise freedom). Freedom would not mean anything if it was not accompanied by the formula for practising it."

"We hope the next parliament will act with full freedom to complete what this one could not achieve," he said. Again, he did not elaborate.

The Syrian leader insisted on the socialist character of his nation's economy but stressed that he had always encouraged a mixed economy.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

Shells shatter Beirut lull

BEIRUT, Feb. 28. (Agencies) Rival Christian forces exchanged heavy artillery gunfire today and shells crashed in residential areas in East Beirut, raising fears of an imminent eruption of wide-scale fighting and an abandonment of tenuous peace efforts.

Residents of East Beirut were forced out of their beds and rushed to shelters as shells fell in the neighborhood of Ashrafieh, security sources said. Intermittent shelling continued until noon, they said.

Troops loyal to Gen. Michel Aoun and the Lebanese Forces militiamen of Samir Geagea fought along the newly established demarcation lines in the Christian enclave and shells crashed in the surrounding residential areas, the security sources said.

Militia sources said Aoun's troops, deployed around Ashrafieh, bombarded this residential area, which is one of two remaining militia strongholds in East Beirut.

Sources said a Christian militia team was close to a deadlock in reaching a political solution for the month-old bloody struggle that has killed at least 710 people and wounded 2,560 others.

Sources close to Aoun said Aoun prefers to settle his struggle with Geagea "peacefully," but they said that if the militia chief did not concede to his conditions of withdrawing from East Beirut, Aoun "will be forced to resort again to military action."

Aoun demands that the Christian enclave be "clean" of militiamen, but he accepts as the first step that the militiamen withdraw from its remaining strongholds in East Beirut to the northern region of Kesrouwane, the sources said.

Kesrouwane is a militia stronghold but Aoun's troops said it needs a number of strategic positions there.

Observers said that after the rivals fought each other to a standstill for the past month, there was little hope that a new battle could be avoided and that it appeared Aoun was preparing to capture the remaining militia strongholds in East Beirut.

The observers said they expected the fighting to erupt in the next few days and predicted the battle would be devastating.

Aoun, they said, needs a victory in Ashrafieh because it opens his road to the Beirut port, which is essential for bringing in military supplies from abroad.

The Lebanese Forces, however, reportedly has bolstered its military position after obtaining an arms shipment. The Independent An-Nahar newspaper said today the militia has obtained a shipment of arms and ammunition that originally was being sent to Aoun.

The newspaper said the shipment was carried by the Panamanian freighter "Atlantic Three," which had been running the Mediterranean and was unloaded last week in the nearby port of Jounieh.

An-Nahar quoted political sources as saying the military hardware aboard the freighter was sent last summer by Iraq to Aoun. Iraq has supported Aoun in his "war of liberation," which he declared last March to drive some 35,000 Syrian troops out of Lebanon.

One Western diplomat was sceptical of a prisoner exchange dominated by Pakistanis, wondering why the rebels would swap Soviet prisoners for a handful of Pakistanis and Arabs.

"Thousands of Afghan prisoners are unaccounted for or known to be held by the regime in Kabul," he said. "They (Soviet prisoners) are the only cards they have in the deck and they are not going to give them up for nothing."

The five rebel prisoners were reportedly released Feb. 11, said the Soviet official.

"We have never heard or seen these prisoners they say they have released," said Farooq Azam, who three months ago gave a Soviet delegation a list of rebels believed to be in jail in Kabul.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.



One-square-metre shop

Abdullah Siani, fixing leather on top of a wooden piece to make the traditional damascene clog. His one-square-metre shop in central Damascus is used both as workshop and a showroom. (Reuters wirephoto)

Peres doubts talks pledge

Labour may leave coalition

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (Agencies) Vice Premier Shimon Peres said today he doubts whether Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, facing stiff resistance within his right-wing Likud bloc, can accept US-backed compromises aimed at starting peace talks with Palestinians.

Peres, the head of the left-leaning Labour Party, spoke to an interviewer with the Associated Press amid a widening rebellion against Shamir among Likud hardliners.

Former Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, who quit the cabinet two weeks ago to protest Shamir's policies, has threatened to convene Likud's decision-making central committee next week without the prime minister's consent.

Other Likud legislators said they would support a vote of no confidence against Shamir in Parliament if he agrees to a US-backed formula that would involve Palestinians from East Jerusalem and some deported by Israel in preliminary Cairo peace talks, Israeli newspapers said.

They also call for Egypt to announce the names of the delegates and for the agenda to be left open to allow Palestinians to bring up subjects other than the elections.

Asked whether he was ready to form a new cabinet, Peres said: "Maybe, I don't exclude it."

The Hadashot daily quoted Peres as telling party activists yesterday that he could put together a narrow government within 10 days if Shamir's government falls.

Peres also told the AP that if he forms a new government, he will continue to back the Israeli elections plan rather than a new peace formula.

Baker's compromise on the composition of a Palestinian delegation calls for including Palestinians from East Jerusalem and some deported by Israel in preliminary Cairo peace talks, Israeli newspapers said.

They also call for Egypt to announce the names of the delegates and for the agenda to be left open to allow Palestinians to bring up subjects other than the elections.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

"We searched for improvements and to benefit from the experiences of other people, but we take our circumstances into consideration and according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we feel needs to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said Assad's Congress in March or early April.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

4.5 million face starvation

A group of young children in Tigray region of Ethiopia, where about 4.5 million people face starvation, carry their belongings on their heads. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mujahedeen wait for Soviet gesture

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 28. (AP) Afghan rebels, who three months ago returned two Soviet prisoners to their weeping mothers in an emotional ceremony, said they are still waiting for Moscow to return the favour.

A senior Soviet official at Moscow's embassy in Islamabad said 33 prisoners, five of whom were rebel fighters, were released from Kabul's central jail. The release, which also included 25 Pakistani nationals, a Jordanian, Iraqi and Saudi Arabian, was staggered over several months, said the official who refused to be identified.

Pakistanis and Western diplomatic sources were not aware of the release, nor were the Afghan rebels, who have been fighting for 11 years to oust Afghanistan's ruling communists, backed by Soviet troops until last year.

"Everything we've heard indicates they (rebels) have received nothing," said a Western diplomat, who spoke on conditions of anonymity.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry could not confirm the release of the Pakistani nationals, although the Soviet

official said 24 of the 25 were dropped off at their consulate in Kabul. One apparently sought asylum in a third country, said the official. The Pakistanis were reportedly released sometime in the past two months, he said.

One Western diplomat was sceptical of a prisoner exchange dominated by Pakistanis, wondering why the rebels would swap Soviet prisoners for a handful of Pakistanis and Arabs.

"Thousands of Afghan prisoners are unaccounted for or known to be held by the regime in Kabul," he said. "They (Soviet prisoners) are the only cards they have in the deck and they are not going to give them up for nothing."

The five rebel prisoners were reportedly released Feb. 11, said the Soviet official.

"We have never heard or seen these prisoners they say they have released," said Farooq Azam, who three months ago gave a Soviet delegation a list of rebels believed to be in jail in Kabul.

Assad's political and economic restructuring takes effect at home.

Assad told the deputies that if Syria had been an internal or external pressure, this would have happened long ago.

Palestinians strike US urges Israel to open universities

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (Reuters) Arabs striking in protest at Israel's continued shutdown of Palestinian universities in the occupied territories gained indirect support today from Washington for their demands that the campuses be reopened.

Ignoring Arab and Western protests, the Israeli government said yesterday that the five universities in the West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip would be kept closed for a further three months.

Israel shut them shortly after the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule began 26 months ago.

Residents said shops closed and transport ground to a halt in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem on the second day of a general strike called by the PLO-backed underground leaders of the revolt.

The US embassy in Tel Aviv said Washington welcomed Israel's announcement yesterday that it would reopen 14 West Bank community colleges after a two-year shutdown, but it called for a resumption of classes for 14,000 university students.

"We hope the action (on community colleges) will be expanded to include the six universities," US embassy spokesman Don Coffman told Reuters.

"We have long held that opening schools can contribute to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis and in this way help to advance the peace process."

The European Parliament voted in January to freeze scientific co-operation with Israeli universities because of the closure of the Palestinian universities.

In the Israeli Parliament, the education committee said it would recommend that the army reopen one university to test the atmosphere on campus, committee chairman Michael Bar

EVENTS



Arab National Orchestra of Music in Kuwait

The Arab National Orchestra of music are currently in Kuwait to perform at the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb in Hawail on March 1 and 2, under the auspices of the National Council of Culture and Arts. There are 180 members of the group and their conductor is Dr Salim Sahab who holds a PhD in Symphony Orchestras.



The Cairo-based orchestra was established in August 1988 in the Opera House of Cairo by Dr. Salim Al-Hifni (currently the chairman of the Opera House). After two months of establishment the orchestra was awarded the Gold Medal in the Babylon Festival.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus	Al Andalus	Al Andalus	Al Andalus
Arabic film	Arabic film	Arabic film	Arabic film
Al Salmiyah	Al Salmiyah	Al Salmiyah	Al Salmiyah
Hall Booked	Hall Booked	Hall Booked	Hall Booked
Al Hamra	Al Hamra	Al Hamra	Al Hamra
Moosturuk	Moosturuk	Moosturuk	Moosturuk
Drive-in	Drive-in	Drive-in	Drive-in
Arabic film	Arabic film	Arabic film	Arabic film
Al Firdous	Al Firdous	Al Firdous	Al Firdous
Agnee Path	Agnee Path	Agnee Path	Agnee Path
Fahad Open	Fahad Open	Fahad Open	Fahad Open
Arabic film	Arabic film	Arabic film	Arabic film
Al Jahra	Al Jahra	Al Jahra	Al Jahra
Arabic film	Arabic film	Arabic film	Arabic film
Granada	Granada	Granada	Granada
Big	Big	Big	Big
Salaikhat	Salaikhat	Salaikhat	Salaikhat
Umkirshante	Umkirshante	Umkirshante	Umkirshante
Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
Flash	Flash	Flash	Flash
Hum Bhi Insaan Hai	Hum Bhi Insaan Hai	Hum Bhi Insaan Hai	Hum Bhi Insaan Hai
Ahmedi Drive-in	Ahmedi Drive-in	Ahmedi Drive-in	Ahmedi Drive-in
Arabic film	Arabic film	Arabic film	Arabic film

PRAYERS

FRIDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY
Fajr	4.55 am	Fajr	4.54 am
Zohr	12.00 noon	Zohr	12.00 noon
Asr	3.19	Asr	3.19 pm
Maghrib	5.48	Maghrib	5.48 pm
Isha	7.04	Isha	7.05 pm

KTV 1

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoo Serial
9.45 Sabah Al Kher, news
10.10 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Sabah Al Kher Programmes
10.30 Regal Fi Al Masyada: Arabic serial, starring Wabeed Saif, Mimi Jamal and Fayza Kamal
11.30 The Open University: cultural programme
12.00 Sabah Al Kher Programmes
12.15 Hwar Na Nagham: local variety programme, prepared by Khaled Bu Hamad and presented by Nervana Idrees
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 Mio Ghair Kalam: variety programme, presented by Hasao Mustafa
2.15 Discovery: cultural serial

3.00 Varieties
3.30 Liqa Al Khamees: variety programme, prepared by Jameel Hmoud and presented by Ameena Al Sharah
5.00 Saham Al Fadha: Cartoon serial
5.30 Cartoons
6.30 Wa Qala Hakeem: Historical Serial
6.45 Kuwait Information Message to The State of Kuwait
7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local programme, prepared by the School Activities Department
8.00 Kul al fonoos: local programme, presented by Rasha Majdi
8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme
9.00 News to Arabic
9.45 Ila Al Shabah Maa Al Taheya: Arabic serial (part 4)
11.15 Samak Lahan Tamr Hindi: Arabic feature film, starring Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Maali Zayed and Yousef Dawoud
12.15 Thursday late night special variety

programme
1.30 News summary
1.35 The World Today via Satellite
1.50 Holy Qurao and closedown
FRIDAY
9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoon serial
9.45 Cartoons
10.15 Magazine D'actualite (repetition)
10.30 Children's magazine: Local children's programme
11.00 Al ahadeeth Al Mawdooa: Religious programme, presented by Salah Abu Ismael
11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayer and speeches
12.25 Ahwan: Local variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
1.00 News summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.20 Hadeeth Deool: Religious programme,

presented by Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
2.00 The Friday Break: Local programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul-Qader and presented by Dawlat Shawqi and Ali Hasan
3.45 Al Hoh we sneeno: Arabic serial
4.45 Saham Al Fadha: Cartoon serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.30 Varieties
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Kuwait Television programmes preview in a week
6.30 Kuwait in a week: Local programme, prepared and presented by Television News Control
7.00 The living place: Cultural programme (part 6)
8.00 The family programme: Local programme, prepared by Tahani Al-Burduqi and presented by Fatema Rashed and Fotouh Al Dalal

8.45 Hadeeth Al Osboor: Religious programme, presented by Ali Al Jassar
9.00 News to Arabic
9.45 Wrestling
10.30 Asma Iaha zekra: Local variety late night feature, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
11.45 News summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and closedown
KTV 2
6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 The Smurfs: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Mr. Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts and illusions... training children on how to use or deal with information...
7.00 Wild America: "White on White" A look at Alaska, the land where snow covers its land

for more than two thirds of the year...
7.30 Mystery: Identity...
8.00 New English...
8.30 Mr. She Wrote...
9.30 The Cosby Show...
10.00 Moteal People: The most skilled "walls climber"...
10.30 Fear Film: "Police Story" watch commander...
11.30 The Weekend Programme: A local programme on variety of topics and local activities and events...

phs and traumas of the "Blue Knights" for whom he is responsible...
FRIDAY
6.00 Opening announcement, Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 A Walt Disney Movie "Savage Sam" Two brothers and their sister Elizabeth are kidnapped by a group of Red Indians...
8.00 News in English...
8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried to various parts in Kuwait...
8.45 Rescue 911: The team carries out a number of rescue operations where a number of people are saved in due time...
9.30 The Weekend Programme: A local programme on variety of topics and local activities and events...

10.00 Roseanne: "Let's call it quits"
10.30 The Mystery Wheel: "Dancer's Touch" A criminal who attacks young girls without being arrested is hunted down by Stryker, the policeman...
11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite
NIGHT CHEMIST
Kuwait
Al Mofid Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Mubarak St
Al Munasser Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber St
Hawail and Murgal
Al Rehab Pharmacy
Tunis St
Salmiya and Rumailiya
Qortuba Pharmacy
Salim Al Mubarak St
Fahad and Ahmad
Al Imam Pharmacy
Mekkah St
Jleeb shuyoukh
Al Ayyub Pharmacy
Al Shuyoukh Souq
Al Ahras Pharmacy
Daabal Al Khozai St

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Hobby Centre

FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Seminar

The seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration, may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453255.

Watercolours of Arabia

Recent watercolours by Patricia Mills on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajah Museum, Jahriya, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397; or 5318060.

Now at the Messilah Beach Hotel Health Club.

SOCIAL

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Act

ACTS production of the Skin of Our Teeth at UAS, Salwa, 8 pm, Feb 27, 28 and March 1. Directed by George Plautz. For reservations please call 5725071, 5731782.

Children's variety show RANGDHANU, a children's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuwaiikh campus, at 5.30 pm. For cards contact +840759, 4312730, 4312280, 4733106 or 3729425.

Steps Ballet School

WE announce that we are now the official co-ordinators for the Royal Academy of Dancing, London. We invite any teachers of ballet here in Kuwait to contact us if they would like to enter any of their students for the Royal Academy of Dance Examinations which will be held this coming May 1990. Entries must be in by March 31. Examinations will be held sometime in May for our own students, and outside students of other teachers are welcome to enter their children also. Please contact us on 5386481 from 9 to 12 noon only. In the afternoons, 565216/8 ext 55, from 4 to 7 pm, (the examination session will be conducted by a visiting examiner from the Royal Academy of Dance, London, as is usual for Steps Ballet School RAD candidates.)

Spring Bazaar for Khalifa School

YOU are invited to an exquisite display of handicrafts and gift items on Thursday March 1, 1990 at Kuwait International Hotel's Old Faisala Room from 10 am to 7 pm. Of the products on display are Latin American rugs, silver, souvenirs, brassware, decoupage, ceramics and other works of art. All donations for the Khalifa School will go to the handicapped.

Jazzercise

Connie will be resuming classes at Messilah Beach Hotel from 03/03/90. Classes are on Saturday 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm & Wednesday 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm. Be there.

Daniella Desert Rally

The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik - Tel: 3727688; ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

German-speaking Cultural Association

The next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held on Sunday, March 4, 10 am, at the Kuwait International Hotel. Tickets for the forthcoming fashion show will be available. Please make an effort to attend.

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

APPROB essay competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) has extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th March to 15th April. The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Revolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD 100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M. I. Saleem. Dr. Ali Jafrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel. APPROB: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Amadeus Chamber Orchestra

THE world renowned 20 member Amadeus Chamber Orchestra conducted by Agnieszka Duczmal will be performing at the Kuwait International 4th and 5th March. The Amadeus Chamber Orchestra has performed frequently in Poland and has toured over 18 European countries as well as the United States, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. Tickets on sale at: 2630000 ext 4010.

Shangri Shandha

SK. DAULA will present Bangladesh Musical Night on March 2, at 6.30 pm at the Sharq Auditorium. Twenty-one gifts will also be presented at a lottery. Entry cards are available at the Garden Restaurant, Murqah.

Goan Welfare Society

MARCH 2 - Friday Goan Welfare Society meeting will be held at Ramada Salam Hotel on 2nd March at 10 am followed by a reception at 12 noon for the Goan football team who won the exhibition match recently in Kuwait Goa vs Kerala.

Ladies International League of Kuwait

JOIN us at our next meeting on Monday, March 5, at the Holiday Inn. Doors open at 3.30, programme at 4.30. Hope to see you ladies there. Door charge.

Daniella Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning for Daees will take place at the SAS Hotel on Sunday, March 4, at 9 am. For further details call Inge - 3727688 ext 207.

Kuwait Welsh Society

ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dinner Thursday, 1st March 1990 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

The British Council

Study in Scotland Education Exhibition: The SAS Kuwait Hotel Ballroom 3-5 March, 4.00 - 8.00 pm daily. Come and meet professors and other senior staff from Scottish Universities and find out about courses and entry requirements. British Council staff will be there to welcome you and answer your questions about studying in the UK. For more information telephone: 252 0067/8/9 and ask for Kate: Harries or Liz Lockey.

Shakespeare's Macbeth

The London Shakespeare Group who have played to more than 50 countries and who are presently on a tour of Middle East, will present "MACBETH" at the Kuwait English School, Salwa, on 21st and 22nd March at 8 am and 23rd March, 1990 at 6 pm. The cast includes actors and actresses with classical backgrounds who have appeared at London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End Theatres, Television and Radio. For ticket reservations & further information ring: 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143, or 5731782.

Canadian Women's League

AN invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting which will be held on Saturday March 3 from 4 to 6 pm in Qortuba. For more information contact 2563025 or 2563867.

SPORTS

Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics - on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies and Adult sessions with Frank Novak - an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each

Private coaching also

available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call to now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

LIFE SAVING COURSES:

With Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade 1 Examiner will be commencing in March 1990. Ergocycle fitness computer tests and courses now available. Jazzercise / Aerobics / Staying power / Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available. Swimming classes will commence March 1990.

Ahmadi Kart racing:

This Friday sees the 9th round of the Kuwait National drivers championship and is sponsored by Mahdi Habib Commercial Establishment. Racing starts at 1.30 pm. Snack bar for hot food and drinks. Rentakart available for test drives after the races. In addition there will be a ladies race and all ladies are welcome to test drive for this event.

To find us take the Ahmadi turnoff from the Assafar then left at the water tower lights and we're on the left before the petrol station.
For further information - please contact David Burfoot (Public Relations Committee Member) on 5732956.

Christian Dior

AVENTURE

Nouvelle / New / Collection

Christian Dior Beauticians will demonstrate the Christian Dior style of applying "AVENTURE", the latest colour collection, and give advice on proper skin care at the following Christian Dior outlets:

PLACE	TEL.	DATE
Jashanmat & Partners Ltd., Kuwait	2420071/2	1-13
Jashanmat & Partners Ltd., Salmiya	5721865	1-13
Al Gharabally Skore, Ahmadi	3981929	1-13
Safeway, Farwaniya	4738933 ext 111	1-13
Safeway, Fahadiah	3927228/9	1-13
Sultan Center, Salmiya	5719620/1	1-13
Qortuba Showroom	5719325	1-13
Dahia Abdullahi Al Salem Co-op	2515224	1
Al Ghanim Beauty Center	2413847	1

LANGOLITA

Aspisp chief, Haeusser meet chamber president

ABDUL Aziz Al Saquer, president of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry received yesterday in his office the President of the Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (Aspisp), Talal Abu Ghazaleh with Dr. Erich Haeusser, president of the German Patent Bureau, who is visiting Kuwait by invitation from Aspisp. During the meeting matters of mutual interest were discussed and methods of co-operation between the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the German Patent Bureau in the field of industrial property protection.

Following the meeting with Al Saquer, Abu Ghazaleh and Dr. Haeusser were received by the Assistant Under-Secretary for Commercial Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rashed Abdullah Al Mujren, where various topics of industrial property protection were discussed.

Dr. Haeusser expressed the willingness of the German Patent Bureau to provide technical assistance to the concerned authority. Abu Ghazaleh briefed Mujren on the proposed project to establish an Arab Data Bank for patents and trademarks with a primary objective to provide services to concerned authorities in the Arab countries.

Dr. Haeusser's visit to Kuwait is the first leg of a tour organised by Aspisp which will also take him to Saudi Arabia and Sultanate of Oman. This comes within the objectives of Aspisp to establish technical co-operation between departments concerned with the protection of industrial property in the Arab countries and their counterparts in other countries of the world and the international organisations. It is noteworthy that the German Patent Bureau is one of the three largest offices for patents worldwide.

Garments exhibition

AN international fair entitled "Bangladesh Apparels and Textiles Expo 90" will be held in Dhaka from April 10-13 1990. Apparels made of pure cotton/synthetic, knit fabrics and baggage items will be displayed. Fabrics and accessories manufactured in Bangladesh will also be displayed in the expo. A wide range of woollen garments for winter 1990 and fall 1991 will be special attraction of Expo-90.

Organisers of the Expo have made elaborate arrangements for reception of foreign participants and special hotel discounts will be available to them.

Interested garment importers may like to contact the Economic and Commercial Wing of the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait for further details and brochures. (Telephone: 4831604 and 4834078 Extn. 14 or 11).

Northrop Corp pleads guilty

LOS ANGELES, Feb 28, (UPI): Northrop Corp. pleaded guilty yesterday to 34 felonies and agreed to pay \$17 million to settle a defence fraud case involving sales of defective weapons and parts to the military.

US district judge Pamela Rymer accepted the pleas and dismissed 141 remaining charges against Northrop, including allegations against two management executives from Northrop's precision products division in Massachusetts.

A former employee at a lower level of Northrop's management tier, Clarence Gonsalves, was allowed to plead guilty to eight charges alleging he oversaw the falsification of tests on air force-bound cruise missiles.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Feb 28 (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29130	0.29245
Sterling	0.49136	0.49351
DM	0.17216	0.17295
S.Fr.	0.19629	0.19721
F.Y.	0.05083	0.05107
Li.hira	0.000236	0.000238
Jap.yen	0.0019413	0.0019701
Bah.din	0.77267	0.77594
UAE.Dh.	0.07929	0.07964
Q.ryal	0.07766	0.07799
O.ryal	0.07990	0.08033
O.ryal	0.75642	0.075991

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.240
Sri Lanka rupee	7.380
Pakistan rupee	13.750
Bangladesh taka	8.980
US dollar	292.30
Pound sterling	279.54
UAE dirham	77.954
Deutsche mark	17.295
Japanese yen	0.01973

Risk loan provisions slice into profits at Belgian bank

BRUSSELS, Feb 28, (Reuters): Generale Bank, Belgium's leading bank, said today its net profits plunged by almost two thirds last year because of big provisions to give it 100 per cent cover against loans to Third World debt countries.

Generale, banking arm of the Societe Generale de Belgique industrial and financial conglomerate, announced group net profit slumped to

2.6 billion francs (\$74 million) from 7.45 billion (\$213 million) in 1988.

Behind the drop was a decision to make full provisions against loans to 44 countries, including Brazil, Mexico and Poland, instead of only 50 per cent cover as in 1988.

"We are now coming out of a long tunnel we have been struggling in since May, 1982 when Mexico first had difficulty," Generale chairman Paul

Emmanuel Janssen said.

Janssen said the provisions had cost it 9.2 billion francs (\$262 million). Leading British and American banks have also sliced into their profits by boosting their reserves against possible non-repayment of loans to indebted countries.

Because of the profit drop Generale said it would keep its after-tax

dividend shareholders unchanged at 265 francs share (\$7.6).

Generale decided to wipe the slate clean of its debt, now because of clean of 144 countries look like continuing to have problems paying interest. Janssen said they had paid only 43 per cent of the amount due.

The bank also took the action to increase its flexibility in the future and he said there were tax advantages.

"We have no loans outstanding to borrowers who have made international headlines," he said. Janssen held out the hope that if the situation improves, some of the money set aside for risky loans could be recovered.

The Generale chief denied, as some banking analysts have suggested, that the bank took the bitter medicine now because it did not want to report big profits just as it was negotiating with Belgian unions to cut its workforce.

If it bled, Generale said its net profit would have been up 42 per cent on 1988 to 10.6 billion francs.

Generale is aiming to cut costs by shedding some 1,000 of its 16,000 workforce, mainly through voluntary redundancies.

AMF plan to develop Arab stock markets

ABU DHABI, Feb 28, (Reuters):

The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) announced today a plan to develop Arab stock markets, which it believes is the best way to stop large amounts of needed capital flowing out of the region.

"The AMF has embarked on an ambitious project to develop Arab stock markets... as a prelude to setting up a joint Arab exchange that will complement the existing ones," the Abu Dhabi-based fund said in a statement.

The AMF said it would create a stock data base, indices and a unified law to govern existing markets.

The data base, which should be ready this year, would publish monthly information on share

moves and companies and be distributed to brokers and investment houses, it said.

The data base would cover Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco, Algeria and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC).

In the GCC, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman have official exchanges while Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have all said they intend to establish their own. Local officials, however, have said they are in no hurry.

AMF officials said they discussed the fund's plan with countries involved over the last year and they urged those without official floors to set them up soon.

"Arab stock markets now are relatively dull. They need to be developed to encourage local investors and attract overseas funds," the statement said.

"We would like to expand our base to include more Arab states but it seems there is no interest, at the moment, from some states," an AMF official said.

In countries such as Libya, Syria, South and North Yemen, Somalia and Mauritania, the public sector accounts for up to 90 per cent of economic activity. Iraq has recently sold some state firms to the public but this has been limited. Sudan's economy is not developed enough for a market.

Elsewhere, Arab investors themselves are limited in what stocks they can buy.

The non-GCC state markets are open to most Arab investors but in the GCC nationals only, with few isolated exceptions, can buy and own shares. The GCC has agreed in principle to open its markets to other GCC nation

Foreign investors are excluded from Arab shareholdings with the exception of some joint venture projects, many of them state-owned partnerships, oil banks.

Senior AMF officials fear that the European Economic Community's plans for a unified market by 1992 and East Europe's rapid economic development will attract more Arab money away from the Arab world's own capital markets.

Debt strategy, interest rates under review Brady, Major discuss E. Europe

LONDON, Feb 28, (Reuters): US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major met yesterday to discuss international issues including economic reconstruction in Eastern Europe.

A British treasury spokesman described the meeting between Brady, currently on a European tour, as "long, friendly and constructive" but gave no details of the topics discussed.

Neither the US embassy nor British officials disclosed details of Brady's first meeting with Major, who became Chancellor in October after the resignation of Nigel Lawson.

But the British officials said the meeting touched on the prospect of German unification, international debt strategy and interest rates.

Brady, who has visited West Germany, France, Italy and yesterday he visited Brussels for talks with European Commission president Jacques Delors.

Brady's arrival came amid expectations that the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations would meet this spring in Europe, ahead of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank meetings scheduled for later this year in Washington.

Brady had talks in Warsaw last week. The official Polish news agency PAP said the discussions focused on ways to reduce Poland's \$42 billion debt.

The officials could not say whether Brady's discussion with Major linked the international debt strategy to economic assistance for Eastern Europe's fledgling democracies.

The informal Paris Club of Western creditors has rescheduled a record \$9.4 billion of Polish debt payments this year. But the pact has been criticised by some analysts who believe Poland needs a reduction in the estimated \$30 billion of loans it owes to Western nations.

The officials also said the question of raising IMF quotas was discussed but they were unable to provide details.

The IMF said on Monday it would extend talks on a quota increase to June 30 from March 31, subject to ratification by member countries.

The talks have been bogged down over several issues. These include the question of countries that have defaulted on loan repayments and where France and Britain would be placed in any new ranking that made Japan the number two IMF donor.

Meanwhile Britain announced monthly trade figures today much worse than market expectations but the pound sterling and share prices rebounded after a brief fall.

The data showed the deficit on the current account, the widest measure of Britain's foreign trade, was £1.88 billion (\$3.16 billion), more than double a revised £817 million (\$1.37 billion) gap for December.

Economists had been forecasting a current account deficit of around £1.3 billion (\$2.2 billion) for January.

Bankers see convertible Turkish lira a step closer

ANKARA, Feb 28, (Reuters): The

Turkish lira has moved closer to full convertibility with a new easing of foreign exchange regulations, but the IMF may seek further relaxation, bankers say.

They said International Monetary Fund officials arriving were likely to approve on Monday's lifting of restrictions on foreign exchange purchases from banks.

Ankara on Monday also freed business-purpose foreign exchange transfers abroad of up to a limit of \$5 million and purchases of foreign securities by Turks or foreigners living in Turkey.

"Turkey is pursuing the right policies at the right time. It is doing what needs to be done to achieve full convertibility," said Ibrahim Betti, general manager of Garanti Bankasi AS.

"The lira is not today a widely-traded currency. But if the IMF decides it is convertible, this may enhance confidence in the lira," said a senior Western monetary source who asked not to be named.

"Still, such a decision will take some time," he added.

Bankers said the IMF sees bilateral barter trade agreements with Iran and Iraq, both IMF members, as hindrances to full convertibility of the lira.

"I think we should not harm our country's interests for the sake of pleasure the IMF," Betti told Reuters. "If we lose our Iran market, shall we find a similar market in the US? No because the US is imposing quotas on our textile products."

A minimum capital requirement of one billion lira to set up an establishment, open a branch or become a partner of a company in Turkey was also abolished this week.

The United States is the biggest creditor but has no direct veto over loans by the bank, which gets most of its money by floating bonds on world markets. It announced a bond issue on Tuesday for 50 billion Japanese yen - \$357.7 million.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Private banks thrive

OPORTO, Portugal, Feb 28, (Reuters):

For some companies it might seem a recession disaster. But Portugal's young private banks are thriving and Western banks are struggling to make money... lots of it.

While many state banks nationalised after the 1974 leftist revolution grew flabby with bad loans and mismanagement, dynamic newcomers created since Portugal reopened the banking industry to private interests six years ago are reaping a rich harvest.

Innovative ideas, new wealth from a government privatisation drive and some of the fastest economic growth in Europe boosted profits for some private banks by up to 150 per cent in 1989.

"We're powering ahead," said chairman Artur Santos Silva, as he presented annual profits for leading investment bank Banco Portugues de Investimento (BPI) last week.

Since February, 1984, about a dozen private Portuguese and foreign banks have been authorised to compete with the 10 state banks and three foreign ones already on the scene.

The new private institutions include Portuguese banks BPI, Banco Comercial Portugues, Banco de Comercio e Industria, Banco Internacional do Funchal and the Banco

Economy booms

Internacional de Credito.

State banks still lead in the number of branches and hold about 80 per cent of assets in the industry. The banking system is tightly controlled, and analysts say this situation can shield underperforming, less competitive state banks.

By going for long-standing rigidities and the fact that the state has borrowed money below market rates, most state banks are in weak positions.

Many are also under-capitalised, unlike some private banks which have expanded capital bases by tapping capital markets.

The public banks are lagging behind, said one foreign banker.

At the helm of the new private competition is BCP, which has catapulted to the spot of leading commercial bank since its 1986 creation by a group of leading industrialists.

BCP, now Portugal's 10th largest bank in terms of assets and second biggest in capital, has aggressively shaken up retail banking with a winning brochure and fresh ideas.

By going for medium to high income depositors and opening highly computerised branches, BCP presents a sharp contrast to some of the heavily-staffed and under-equipped state banks.

Manila gets debt-relief loan

TOKYO, Feb 28, (UPI):

A group of about 80 US Japanese and European commercial banks signed an agreement in Tokyo today to extend a new debt-relief loan totaling about \$700 million to the Philippines.

The Philippines is the second recipient of a debt-financing loan under the so-called Brady plan initiated by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

Mexico became the first debt-ridden nation to receive such aid when it signed a \$3.2 billion agreement with an international lending agency last month.

Signing of the agreement with the Philippines, originally scheduled for January, was delayed

because of political instability in the country, including a coup attempt against the government of President Corason Aquino.

Under the agreement, the Philippine government will buy back about \$1.3 billion debt it owes to bank creditors at 50 per cent of its face value.

Finance Minister Jesus Estanislao led the Philippine delegation at the signing held at a Tokyo hotel this morning.

The creditor banks included Bank of Tokyo and Manufacturers Hanover Trust.

Senior officials of the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan were also on hand at the signing.

World Bank approves loan to China

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (AP):

Representatives of 152 governments in the World Bank unanimously approved a \$600 million loan to China yesterday, the first sevenfold that President Bar

R. Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Conable said after the decision in the bank is now back to regular lending to China. China at India are its biggest borrowers. The bank is the largest single source of aid to the Third World, leading over \$21 billion a year.

You know, China has slowed its reform programme for the very good reasons and the loan now have to be reviewed," Cabletold reporters.

He added that the bank will be taking up some new loans to China as well as the old ones, which were to have totalled \$820 million.

He approved Tuesday by the bank's board will be repayable 40 years with less than 1 per cent annual interest. For 10 years, only the interest need be paid.

The money will go to help farmers in Jiangxi province, the northeastern part of the country. The bank made a loan to China early this month to help repair damage from an earthquake that occurred after the political crackdown.

The United States is the biggest creditor but has no direct veto over loans by the bank, which gets most of its money by floating bonds on world markets. It announced a bond issue on Tuesday for 50 billion Japanese yen - \$357.7 million.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.

Ali Conable held back the loans to China last June, US President George Bush asked that lending be suspended. Since then he United States has resumed its own loans to China, and he made a grant to help American firms working on the subway in Shanghai.



More Arab cabin crew

A second group of Arab cabin crew have received their wings and enter service this month on British Airways Middle East routes. This brings to 42 the number of regional crew based at British Airways' cabin centres in Bahrain and Cairo. The latest set of recruits included 6 Bahrainis and 3 Egyptians. "Our aim this summer is to have two Arab crew members on all our Middle East flights," says Adel Ali, BA manager, Bahrain. "In addition to helping our Arab passengers they perform an important function in monitoring the standard of special Arab services on-board our flights." Pictures show British Airways' newest recruits for its Arab cabin crew based in Bahrain with the airline's Bahrain Manager, Adel Ali.

European marketeers prepare for 1992 with style

BRUSSELS, Feb 28, (Reuters):

Businessmen take note. If you want to keep customers once Europe's trade barriers come down, you must learn to tell a Euro-dandy from a Euro-vigilante.

That is the message from a panel of European marketing agencies which says it has pigeon-holed all 320 million European Economic Community citizens into 16 consumer profiles of "Eurostyles".

"If you are wise, you are prepared for the European market," said Dominique Rajewski of Brussels-based GKF Belgium, one of 15 marketing firms on the panel.

"Whether they like it or not, everyone in market research now has to conduct multinational surveys, because the market is being thrown open," she said.

The EEC's plans to dismantle all internal restrictions on trade by 1992 pose a big problem for many businesses - how to

extend success in their home markets beyond national borders, while defending market share against foreign invaders.

The panel's answer is to pick out the social strands which weave a common EEC fabric, from the wealthy conservatism of the Euro-gentry - "the golfers" - to the frustration of the impoverished Euro-Olivados, the forgotten people of Europe.

Armed with this knowledge, it says, the intrepid marketer can tune into the spirit of the times and confidently aim his wares at potential customers from Manchester to Milan.

"The system combines segmentation and internationalisation, and that makes it unique," Rajewski said. "You can work on an international level but still target a market with precision."

There have been pan-European surveys before, but these stuck largely to demogra-

phic and economic data. The Eurostyles stand apart, their developers say, because they classify consumers in terms of life-style, motivation and ways of thinking.

"We study the consumer in all his aspects - his attitudes, his whims, his habits," Rajewski said. "The system is very much related to what he does in daily life."

The Eurostyles are the brainchild of Bernard Cathelat, a professor of political sciences at the Sorbonne University in Paris. Cathelat also runs his own market research company, CCA, a subsidiary of France's Havas-Eurocom Group.

They are based on interviews conducted in 11 EEC countries plus Austria, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden.

The panel asked a sample of 24,000 people some 3,500 questions apiece on topics ranging from "my philosophy" and "my political programme" to "my work

and my money."

They then slid through this board of crude information in search of the overlaps and relations which would ultimately crystallise into a recognisable set of attitudes, feelings and habits - a Eurostyle.

In the final marketing product the 16 Eurostyles are mapped onto a graph which sorts them according to their openness to change, how important property is to them, and when they behave emotionally or rationally.

The Euro-style, for example, are "decidedly more conservative in their tastes, the one says in its sample pack. They view Europe of 1992 as a united community in the struggle against communism."

"They are the greens. They are into cultural life and innovative thinking," Rajewski said.

Banking Stock No.	Exchange prices (Rs) Feb 28							
	Pr. Close	Open	Close					
ACC	344	343	343					
Alam Chien	—	—	—					
Alw Noh	—	—	—					
Ang Pao	456	453	453					
Asiab Ley	76	76	73					
Asia Pao	215	215	217.50					
Atlas Corp	350	37.50	350					
Asia Corp	—	—	32.50					
Nai Ind	377.85	374.60	—					
Bajaj Auto	386.25	382.50	383.75					
Bar Nayan	645	642.50	620					
Belov Plast	183.50	182	178					
Bost Dry	—	—	—					
BRI Bond	98.50	96	97.50					
Camibank	—	—	—					
Can Enka	3060	3050	3025					
Cia Spg	2050	2010	2053					
Colgate	182.50	181.25	178.75					
Crown Gr	—	935	935					
DCM	14.50	14	13					
Dunlop	58	56	58					
Eli Hotels	61	60	61					
Esacora	812.50	801.50	810					
BSX Index	68.80	67.50	675.2					
Fakayee	127.50	127.50	126.25					
Fakayee	29	28.50	28.75					
Food Spl	105.50	103.75	104.50					
Forbes	49	47.50	48.75					
Gar Poly	43	42.75	43					
	—	35.50	35.50					
GNPC	39	38.50	39					
Ganem	109	108	109					
GR Spg	45.35	45.25	45					
GSFC	147	172.50	177.50					
Guj Aik	80.50	79	80.50					
Guj Heavy	16	16	16					
Hera Honda	167	163.50	163.50					
Hind Cha	1140	1125	1150					
Hind Loco	106.50	104.50	107.50					
Hind Cloac	1495	1475.50	1500					
Ind Motar	225	221.50	222					
Shaw Wall	—	—	—					
Shi Fib	55	53	54					
Sinemex	104	101	103					
SKF.	1300	1280	1280					
St Mills	53	52.50	52.50					
St Mill	64	64	64					
Tata Oil	—	—	—					
Tata Chem	122	122	122					
Tata Pow	431.25	427.50	427.50					
Telco	114.75	114.50	114					
Thapa Agro	109	108.25	108					
Tisco	136.25	133.75	136.25					
Van Org	—	—	—					
Vasini	690	675	703					
Volant	15.50	20	19					
Zaari	56	56	56.50					
Zuari Agro	58	57	58					

Compiled by Kairati-India International Exchange Co.

A film too many — but new all the same

By Firoze Rangoonwalla
Special correspondent

CINEGOERS are forever known to know what kind of fare they can expect in the coming films. And we are not talking of those who have almost given up seeing Hindi films or make do with just a "small" dose through the video cassette. We are talking of those hard-core addicts who throng the theatres in the first few weeks (or days), to know what new stuff the new films are made of.

Just as coming events cast their shadows, similarly coming films reflect their yarns, which get talked about. The ballyhoo of publicity creates curiosity for what these star-studded or star-made films contain. But producers try to maintain the secret for fear of imitation. Rajesh Khanna also did it when he started his home production *Jai Shiv Shankar*.

Now that the film is almost ready, he has relaxed and talks about it with press. Rajesh himself plays Jai, an investigative journalist who exposes misdeeds of mafia, led by Anupam Kher in league with policeman Shafi Inamdar and politician Om Shiv-puri. The town's collector is Dimple, who is also against the gang. Rajesh and Dimple, childhood lovers, are separated because she had to support sister Poonam. Dhillon and brother Chunky. But when they meet years later the emotional sparks are ignited.

Poonam also wants to become a journalist. So Dimple puts her in touch with Rajesh, but she begins to have a crush on him. Seeing this Dimple, without any brother, Shankar (Chauhan) strays on the criminal path, joining Anupam's gang after a rift with Rajesh's sister, Sangita (Bhargava). The third hero Shiv (Jeetendra) is already with the mafia. Naturally he reforms, when he begins to love Poonam and sees that Anupam tries to kidnap her and finish off Chunky. Dimple becomes a victim of the gang's revenge. As expected, Jai, Shiv and Shankar

join hands, but Jai (Rajesh) is also bumped off.

The gangsters set fire to the press. There is public outrage. Using this support, the survivors crush the mafia and carry on Rajesh's good work. The film is designed to give maximum leverage to Khanna, with two heroines giving their attentions to him. His subdued, sedate image is compensated by the stunts and thrills involving the other two. Dimple is said, Poonam, sentimental and Sangita, a prop in the film.

Rajesh's dream film *Karnama*, nearing completion after many tussles with Vinod Khanna, pays more attention to a horse than the stars. The actor-producer's weakness for race horses made him select this theme about hero Vinod training his beloved horse to win the Gold Cup. Vying with him is villain Amrish Puri who wants his own steed to hit the jackpot. To make matters worse, Amrish's daughter Kimi loves Vinod. Amrish



Rekha and Rishi in Sheshnaag

treats it like a passing affair but she becomes pregnant. Later he shows his heroism by saving her from a river by injuring himself.

Rajesh has made the horse so clever that it responds to audio-video tape messages. When Vinod is in hospital, the horse goes on a hunger strike only to be revived by his master's voice. Amrish's horse again, falls back



Vinod Khanna accomplishes a feat with Vinod in Karnama



Dilip Kumar and Rajesh Khanna

and so he plans horse. The good the winning post. Vinod is heart someone else had a pony, he had a major aneurysm. Farha, as the well as Vinod's horse and she does not stop

Vinod shows the tape of how the old horse had won even in a dying condition. So the young one gets into the stride.

When Amrish plans to kill this one, too, Kimi becomes a jockey and rides Vinod's steed. Amrish comes with his gun but kills the daughter instead of the horse. Now Kimi breathes her last.

while handing over her love child to Vinod and Farha. *Karnama* faced dozens of hurdles due to the hero's harassment, while poor Rajesh wondered why a fellow artiste behaved like that. However, people close to Vinod Khanna said, "The macho hero did not like a horse getting so much footage and a star role. The sequences with Kimi would make Vinod a kind of villain rather than hero. And finally, the evil man Amrish is also tracked down by the horse. So Vinod decided to bunk the dates and whispered that Rajesh was making a stunt-animal film. Well, you can't be different if you take big stars."

Rekha's bid to outbid Sri Devi was the prime motivation behind *Sheshnaag*. But it has backfired. As the story goes, Jeetendra and Madhvi are snakes who can take any human shape. Chatterjee tries to catch them. But village youth Rishi (Kapoor) and his sister Rekha manage to free

them. Rekha's husband is a drunkard and gambler, so she jumps into the river. For Rishi's happiness, the female snake takes her form. And thus Rekha takes over from Madhvi, pretending to be herself.

Snake Jectu also comes to live with his mate, posing as a servant. Rishi loves the landlord's daughter Mandakini but the old man wants her to marry Dan Dhanoa (favourite villain of Manmohan Desai). When she refuses, the landlord plots to kill Rishi with the help of the snake-charmer. The two snakes risk their lives to help him and bring about a happy end. It's easy to see why distributors have not shown much interest in the film. Apart from Rekha not having a market rating, she does not even have proper love interest in the film. Even the snake is played by her as a proxy. And there is no direct conflict, as between Sri Devi's snake and the snake charmer of the *Nagina* series.

A Dilip Kumar film is something to talk about. So people are eager to know what *Iszad* is all about. This South's concoction by K. Bapaiah has Dilip, Anupam Kher and Shafi Inamdar playing close friends. After Dilip's daughter loves and marries an already married man (the villain) conflicts erupt. Friendships are disrupted. Dilip is involved in a murder and jailed, his wife is thrown out of the house. Shafi's daughter Madhuri Dixit and Govinda fall in love when they grow up. Oncoming out of jail, Dilip tries to set things straight, in the face of the villain's mafia trying every trick in the book.

The family-drama expert Kalpataru has completed *Ghar Ha Ta Aisa*. "This 'ideal' home has characters like Bindu, a terrible shrew, her two sons, Raj Kiran and Anil Kapoor, the former's wife Deepthi who is terrorised for dowry, a daughter Rita Bhaduri married to resident son-in-law Kadar Khan and Anil's girl Meenakshi who comes over to play-act as a proud daughter-in-law to teach a lesson to Bindu and bringing happiness back.



Dimple: 'I still have to run my innings'

Dimple's home movie

'New and meaty....'

"It is all bullshit to say that I have become a producer because I am not going well as a star. I have nearly thirty films on hand and I am shooting every day. It was the urge to get a powerful film produced and do an equally powerful role that made me take up this new venture."

"I have not flopped and I am not finished as a star. Some films last year did not do well, like *Shehzade*, *Bees Saal Baad*, *Pati Parmeshwar* and *Aag Ka Gola*. There was a hit like *Ram Lakhan* but the credit went to others. Anyway, I have decided not to do mini-roles like that any more where another heroine gets the cake. I also had to leave some films like *Yeh Aag Kab Bujhegi* but it can't be helped."

"We should give something new and meaty to our fans and cinegoers. When I saw Rajkumar Santoshi's directorial work in *Chayal*, I was very much impressed. He had been assisting Govind Nihalani. He will handle my theme very well. I had to sign Sunny for my production to ensure quick dates and smooth sailing. It is also a film that I am making the film to launch Twinkle."

"I still have to run my innings. Apart from box-office films, to be released in a row this year, I am also proud about Govind's *Drishit*, Kumar Shahni's *Anna Karamina* and Muzaffar's *Zooni*. Then there is a Gulzar's *Lekin* and films like *Jai Shiv Shankar* and *Narsinhoo*. If I produce a film, I will have the best of three worlds."

Talking computers please say 'yes' or 'no'

NEW YORK (AP) In the brave new world of the telephone company, it's no longer enough to listen to computers. Now you have to talk to them.

"At the phone, please say your name," electronic operators are telling callers around the United States. The machines then ask customers at the other end if they'll pay the charges. "Please say yes or no."

The system, years in the works and just now arriving, marks a new era in telephone technology: a computer that not only delivers messages or directs callers to hot buttons, but responds to the human voice.

"It understands when you say yes or no," said Preston Peek, spokesman for Northern Telecom Inc., a leading developer of computer systems that can discern spoken words. "It asks what you want to do, and you just tell it."

And it's probably coming to a phone company near you.

Three of the seven regional phone companies — American Bell South and Nynex — have "voice recognition" systems for collect and third-party calls in some areas now. Two more, Pacific Telesis and Bell Atlantic, will soon.

The phone companies, eyeing lower costs and a bigger market, love the technology. They say even smarter computer systems — ones that can make out numbers, even city names — are near.

"It's inevitable that everyone's going to go to computerised voices," said Bryant

Steele. "It's cost-saving. It's more efficient."

But that delight is not universal.

"After some initial grousing, people will eventually go ahead and live with it," said Dr. Kenyon Degreene, an expert in human-machine relationships. "However, a price eventually has to be paid."

That price, said Degreene, a psychologist and professor of systems management at the University of Southern California, is the burgeoning impersonality of society.

When a computer demands specific words from a telephone caller, contact seems to resist with the machine, Degreene said. And because many people don't understand the workings of technology, "There's an implied threat there."

"The person senses that he cannot understand free-flowing speech. He's being constrained. The computer is controlling him. It can be simply frustrating," he said. "People adapt to it, but only by filing away subconsciously as another annoyance of living in our technological world."

There are other problems. Because of interference, background noise or other glitches, the computers do not always recognise words; they eventually switch to a human operator, but only after several tries. For now, they recognise only English. And callers, once familiar with the system, still have to listen to the computer's spiel before answering.

is an out, however, callers can get the computer's instructions and just to get a human operator.

Working to a computer is annoying, but fascinating. For its first trick — the collect caller's name — the computer simply records the answer and sends it back to the call recipient after the call is collected.

Next part is harder. After asking if the caller will accept the call, the system sends the "yes" or "no" response to a database matrix based on recordings of thousands of people uttering those words.

It makes its best guess as to whether the caller said "yes" or "no," said Candice L. Berman, a specialist in speech recognition at Communications Research Inc. in Boston, New Jersey.

The computer guesses right about 98 per cent of the time, she said, "provided the caller does what they're supposed to do." It predicts customers will adjust, noting that phone users grew accustomed to answering machines and, later, to the computerised voices providing numbers to busy assistance callers.

Nationally, US telephone callers placed 1.5 million collect and third-party calls in 1988. Multiply that by the amount of collect calls and you'll get an idea of the savings, said Peek, the Northern Telecom spokesman.

Further savings are ahead. Half the nation's telephones are rotary rather than touch-tone models, and those callers cannot punch in credit card numbers. But when the computers can recognise spoken numbers, operators won't be needed to handle those credit-card calls.

Rotary phones also will become compatible with systems that now require touch-tone responses — to reach an extension, for example, or to hear a recorded train schedule.

And when the systems can understand city names, directory assistance callers will find themselves queried for that information by the computer before an operator completes the service — again, cutting operator time.

US Sprint, the nation's No. 3 long-distance phone company, says by June it will start a voice-activated dialling system in which callers can say their names and a password instead of punching in their account codes. Callers also will be able to dial pre-registered numbers with spoken orders, such as "call home."

Sprint's long-distance competitors are studying voice-activated services. AT and T has said some services could begin this year. MCI has no such plans now.

Two of the regional phone companies, US West and Southwestern Bell, have no immediate plans to implement voice-activated services, but they're looking into it.

Behind the screen



Amitabh and Shashi: Ajooba

Amitabh's recent declaration "I am finished" is seen as a move to draw sympathy and pity from the cinegoers. The idea is to make them feel "Oh, we will lose such a good actor and such great hits he used to give." Thereby, making *Agneepath* a big hit. In case it fails, Amit can always say "I had told you so." But his loose talk is giving nightmares to his other producers. If he is "finished", then what about *Ajooba*, *Hum*, *Indrajit*, *Khuda Gawah*, *Akela* and the rest?

Rajesh Khanna's career has been defeated but not his ego. He still calls the press and gloats over the days when Mumtaz and Sharmila Tagore would fight each other to gain his favour and how they would both want Kara at the same time. People can swallow this about the then needy Mumtaz but Sharmila was always well-placed. And what if Tiger Pataudi or Mayor Madhavi decide to sue him for maligning their wives? They should at least challenge him to a duel.

The title of Amitabh's *Kaan Sune Fariyaad*, with which K. C. Bokadia becomes a director, has been changed to *Aaj Ka Arjun*. If Amitabh wants to check his stagnating career, the least he could do is to be daring and different. The worst he can do is to stick to hackneyed formulas and resort to the type of compromises which smaller actors easily accept.

Poor Shekhar Suman keeps falling from the frying pan into the fire. A leading publication group with a film magazine called him, not to receive an award, but to compete their award function. Suman rushed to it in his best Sunday suit. But the hosts themselves severely criticised his competing in their papers. Poor Suman is still wondering "Where did I go wrong? Why the hell did they call me in the first place?"

Shashi Kapoor's sluggish ways of directing *Ajooba* have exasperated not only the Soviet team but also the Indian co-stars, who are fond of rushing from set to set. Shashi, now, cannot expect the kind of dates he once got. And the Russians may keep away from him as they are doing from communism.

Rekha's concoction of publicity stunts knows no end. Periodically, her persecution complex brings up some sensation like being ditched, kidnapped, harassed or nearly raped. The latest is from Hyderabad where the car in which she chose to go was surrounded by eve-teasers who soon turned tormentors. When she tried to catch a bus, the driver and conductor smiled and drove away. A passing car of the unit rescued her. Rekha is sure that nobody will contradict this, since nobody was there that night to check out the story! But why does she do all this? Perhaps, an imitation of the sympathy-getting act by the man whom she loved (loves).

STAR SLIPS

Govinda: "I really believe that the first happiness is good health and second happiness is a little wealth."

Mumtaz: "My most unforgettable moment was when Natasha and Tanya were born."

Sonam: "Sex does not need any legal or holy sanctions. Sex should never be associated with marriage. People should realise that women also have certain needs which need to be fulfilled." Sonam is rumoured to be marrying Rajiv Rai soon.

Sri Devi: "I love to play with my toys and games. I have a room full of toys."

Nana Patekar: "Dimple's looks are her minus point. She is going on 35. If she continues in glamorous roles, then one day she will wake up and find her face is not the same. And then she will find it difficult to make a transition."

Sonu Walia: "I give myself seven to eight years before I get married."

Salman Khan: "Why am I being compared with Aamir Khan? I always thought I was another Sunjay Dutt."



Sri Devi, playing games

A taste of Italy in goulash land

BUDAPEST, (Reuters) To start, signor, may I suggest some San Daniele raw ham with wild mushrooms in olive oil?

Then perhaps a sea bass escalope with candied lemon and air-dried tomato, veal escalopes with ham and marsala sauce, for dessert a hot zabaglione with sweet moscato wine, and to drink, a crisp dry Tor di Giano 1988 from the Piedmont?

To palates tired of goulash soup, paprika chicken and chocolate pancakes washed down with "hull's blood" — Hungary's famous red wine — the first joint venture restaurant in Hungary offers a welcome taste of Italy.

"I think Budapest needed this," says Klara Beghetto, a Hungarian who runs the Marco Polo Restaurant for its owners: her Italian husband Oreste, the Milan firm Multiservice for which he works and the Hungarian hotel chain Hungarohotels.

"We wanted to show that Italian cuisine is not just spaghetti and pizza but also something of a higher niveau (level)."

On a prime site close to the Danube in central Budapest, the Marco Polo has attracted a devoted following, mainly among fat-walleted foreigners, since its opening last July.

Designed by a Milan architect, the bar and upstairs 60-seat restaurant is a luxurious harmony of Italian rosewood, black Italian leather and Italian marble in pink and grey.

The walls are a waxed tangerine stucco of Italian "Stucco Veneziano". The glassware is Italian. The cutlery is Italian.

Most importantly, the food and chefs are Italian. The Marco Polo imports cheese, wines, olive oil and other specialties direct from Italy. Containers from the Mediterranean port of Chioggia speed to its kitchens the only fresh sea fish available at a restaurant in Hungary.

An elaborate permanent menu includes tuna fish tartare with marinated egg plants and basil sauce, penicilli pasta with duck and mushrooms sauce and fresh strawberries in balsamic vinegar. There is a weekly business menu and a daily menu "menu speciale".

FAMILY DOCTOR

ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

SEE YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY ABOUT BLOODY DISCHARGE

QUESTION: I have been examining my breasts regularly and have never found anything abnormal, but yesterday morning I noticed a bloody discharge coming from my right breast. Is this something to worry about? I'm 34 years of age.

ANSWER: It is a good idea to report changes in your breast condition to your doctor. Although bloody discharge warrants careful attention — it could be a sign of a benign or malignant tumor.

Among the benign causes of a reddish nipple discharge are certain drugs, or benign fibrous tissue or cysts in your breast tissue that can elicit bloody fluid. The common cause is a benign breast tumor, but a malignant tumor could be malignant.

Most breast tumors are found in women between 40 and 50 years of age, and increase for a woman between 50 and 60. For a male with this symptom, the cause is usually benign.

To help your doctor diagnose the cause correctly, take careful notes of your symptoms. Was the discharge bloody or milky? Did it come from one breast or two? Has this ever happened before? What kinds of drugs or medications are you taking? Your physician will examine you for lumps, tenderness, and changes in your breast tissue. If other causes are ruled out, exploratory surgery must be considered as a next step in treatment. If a tumor is found, whether benign or malignant, it can then be removed.

Remember, if you see your doctor immediately, the chances are good that you will get the best results. Definitely apply in this situation.

Question: I'm a diabetic, currently using beef and pork insulin to control my disease. Would a switch to human insulin be a good idea? Where does human insulin come from and are there any advantages over animal insulin?

Answer: Human insulin has been available since 1982. It can be extracted from the human pancreas, but for the most part it is manufactured in the laboratory using recombinant DNA technology. Human insulin has been shown to have significant advantages over beef and pork extracted insulins.

Patients who've switched to human insulin have shown significant decreases in anti-insulin antibody levels, making it easier to manage insulin allergies. Many people are also able to absorb it better than animal, there's another advantage. Right now, recombinant DNA insulin costs about 40 per cent of what purified pork insulin costs, but it's still more expensive than mixtures containing beef and pork insulin.

One drawback of human insulin is that it seems to have a shorter time span for activity. Therefore, patients being switched from animal insulins to human insulin must be monitored by their doctors very carefully. Many diabetic specialists agree — human insulin should be considered for all newly diagnosed cases of insulin dependent diabetes.

Your own doctor or should be consulted before any change is made for only he or she can really tell you whether the switch to human insulin is an advisable one in your case. Your history and the severity of your disease will be important factors in the decision.

Dr. Allan Bruckheim welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot respond to each one individually, he will answer those of general interest in his column. Write to Dr. Bruckheim in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 119, Orlando, Fla. 32802-0119.

JUNIOR TIMES

Happy birthday



Jibu John George turned 5 on February 27



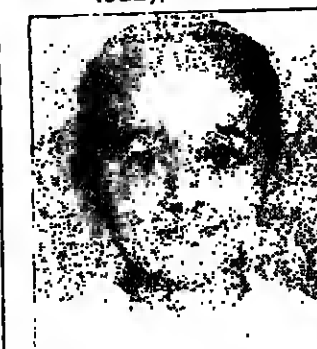
Violet Pereira turns 2 today, March 1



Teena Azhikathu turns 6 today, March 1



Sunil Rane turns 7 on March 3



Crystal Leitac turns 5 today, March 1



Jasleen Kaur turns 10 on March 3



Shallma Yousef turns 9 today, March 1



Ayman Singh turns 1 on March 4

State Treasurer of Texas in the 1930s was a 3-foot 9-inch midget.

In Killarney, Ireland, at the Eagle's Nest Cave, you will be told that if you sound a bugle note there you will hear it repeated at least a hundred times.

The Portuguese Man-o'-War (jelly-fish) is not one single animal but a colony of small animals.

Between 1500 and 1600 the stock of precious metals in Europe trebled.

The diprotodon (or giant wombat) lived in Australia 500,000 years ago in large numbers. It was the same size as a rhinoceros.

In Norway many cottages have grass roofs.

Jack the Ripper was left-handed.

Amazing facts

A gallon of pure water weighs 10 lbs.

In Ancient Egypt princesses wore wigs made by binding their hair tightly around their wrists.

There are 100,000 hairs in the average human scalp.

A tavern in Neu Isenburg, Germany, is shaped like a large pitcher.

The real Robinson Crusoe who inspired Daniel Defoe to write his famous book, was a Scottish sailor. Alexander Selkirk had spent over four years alone on a desert island in the Pacific.

Noel Coward wrote one of his most successful comedies, *Hay Fever*, in three days.

So many languages are spoken in India that many Indians from one part of the country cannot understand their fellow countrymen from another part.

The Chinese words Kung Fu mean 'leisure time.'

Caviar is 30 per cent protein.

The modern jury system was originated by William the Conqueror who set up juries of 12 men in each district to assure honest tax payments.

Women of the Jos Plateau, Togoland, Africa, make known their married status by wearing a small bustle of plaited straw.

Draw a circle round each item that is different in the second picture.



Take-away tales: 2



Variety

Free at last!

By Brain Hollis

WITHDRAWAL of government support for the film industry over the past three years, has led to a serious decline in new movie making in Britain, both in terms of wholly British films and foreign films shot on location. As an upshot, the British box office in 1989 was completely dominated by American product.

The one exception among the gloom, was an unlikely winner called *Shirley Valentine*, which stayed near the top of the charts for almost five months. Pauline Collins plays Shirley, a typical Northern housewife approaching middle age, with nothing to look forward to except her husband grousing about getting egg and chips instead of steak and chips for Thursday supper. She has no-one to talk to except her yuppie neighbour who pops off in Brussels for the day, leaving Shirley to mind the dog. By chance her best friend Jane wins a holiday for two in Greece in a magazine competition, and asks Shirley to go along. After initial protests, and without telling her husband, she finally sets off for the Greek islands with an inclusive tour of complaining whiteskinned bank clerks, and decides to make the best of it. Seduced by the local taverna owner (I only want to show you the island - no funny business) played humorously by Tom Conti, she proves remarkably resilient and decides to find a job on the island rather than go back to her boring life in England.

The story in itself is nothing, but it seems to typify the frustrations and yearnings of millions. The title role is perfectly cast as a fading slightly overweight housewife, children grown up, with a sharp sense of humour, but few prospects. And the supporting characters, although parodies, are immediately recognizable in real life. The dry wit and practical approach of Shirley to the ups and downs of the real world, is keenly reminiscent of the sixties heroines of Alan Silitoe, Keith Waterhouse or Shelagh Delaney, when British film making was at its peak.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic, the film *Tango & Cash* is going out of fashion. To prove the point Sylvester Stallone has teamed up with Kurt Russell in *Tango & Cash*, as two top Los Angeles detectives. The scene is set with the following interchange: Policeman to Stallone: "Who do you think you are? Rambo? Stallone to policeman: "Rambo..... is a pussy!"

You can guess most of the rest of the story. *Tango & Cash* but they are forced to work together when they are framed by Mr Nasty (Jack Palance) and sent to prison together. Do they escape? Do they get their own back on the mob? Of course they do, but at least there's plenty of action and suspense along the way. Intent on covering all angles, the scriptwriters have included a subplot with Stallone's virgin sister falling in love with Russell, only to be kidnapped by the mob. A whole new world of pop is also available.



Pauline Collins as Shirley Valentine

I and II scoring big, it looks as though the lone cop is going out of fashion. To prove the point Sylvester Stallone has teamed up with Kurt Russell in *Tango & Cash*, as two top Los Angeles detectives. The scene is set with the following interchange: Policeman to Stallone: "Who do you think you are? Rambo? Stallone to policeman: "Rambo..... is a pussy!"

You can guess most of the rest of the story. *Tango & Cash* but they are forced to work together when they are framed by Mr Nasty (Jack Palance) and sent to prison together. Do they escape? Do they get their own back on the mob? Of course they do, but at least there's plenty of action and suspense along the way. Intent on covering all angles, the scriptwriters have included a subplot with Stallone's virgin sister falling in love with Russell, only to be kidnapped by the mob. A whole new world of pop is also available.

James Bond style moon buggies chasing our heroes in a Darth Vader type vehicle dreamt up by a 'Back to the Future' type nutty professor. Need I say more.

Jack Lemmon, best known for comedy roles with Walter Matthau, returns to the screen in an all-American tearjerker with the role of a 'good old dying of cancer' Dad. The highly improbable story features 'Cheers' star Ted Danson as a Wall Street executive who returns home to be with his father while his mother (Olympia Dukakis) recovers from a heart attack. He finds that his father has become totally dependent on his crochety wife and is incapable of caring for himself. With his son's help he recovers his self reliance, only to fall victim to cancer.

Lemmon gives the type of performance that usually wins Academy Awards, whereas Danson plays the only character who keeps the film in touch with some semblance of reality. However *Dad* is a quality film from Stephen Spielberg's stable, which grossed over \$30 million at the US box office. Providing the Kleenex is at the ready, it should go some way to reaffirming our faith in humanity.

Sally Field and Tom Hanks sound like a pretty good team for a new comedy, and fact *Punchline*. 'Dad' have some rave reviews. 'Bold, sneaky, brilliant... I can't remember laughing this much with tears still trickling down my cheek' said the Los Angeles Times critic. I personally cannot remember being so embarrassed at so many unfunny jokes. The storyline is very simple. Tom and Sally are both stand up comedians trying to make it into the big time, and having a hard time convincing the audiences that they're funny. There are lots of one-liners and potentially funny situations which may or may not amuse. Take it or leave it.

For sport this week, there are recent rugby, boxing snooker and basketball games, and the latest top of the pops is also available.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Fintas/Farwaniya; Video Mart, Video City, Video Mart, Video City, Video Mart.

Stallone and Russell play *Tango & Cash*Danson and Lemmon in *Dad*

'Musicares'

Tuning into anti-drug message

LOS ANGELES, (UPI): David Crosby is out of jail, working hard to stay sober, the bad boys of Aerosmith are off the needle and crowing about it in the pop magazines and Dallas Taylor has publicly confessed he's dying of liver disease from years of substance abuse.

The anthem is slowly changing in a world of ritual excesses where drug and alcohol abuse have claimed the lives and careers of many talented performers. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, the industry organisation that is host to music's highest awards, the Grammys, is out to encourage a metamorphosis with the industry's first health and welfare foundation and a mass anti-drug public service campaign.

Crosby, the veteran member of Buffalo Springfield and various incarnations of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, shattered his career with drugs and landed in prison on cocaine charges. He and other recording stars with first-hand substance abuse experience - including 1990 Grammy Award-winner Bonnie Raitt, Eddie Money, Kris Kristofferson and Brian Wilson - are participating in a mass billboard campaign to steer young fans off drugs.

"We want to keep people from having to go through what we went through," Crosby says. The advice, "stay smart and don't start," beams down from a larger-than-life picture of a survivor. Soon, more than 7,500 billboards will go up in 50 US markets, thanks to a partnership between the US Office for Substance Abuse, the Academy and the Entertainment Industries Council. Outdoor advertising companies are donating the signs.

Participation in such a campaign is something new from an industry blamed for glorifying drugs in lyrics and by example.

"We owe it to those 6- to 24-year-olds who look at musicians as role models," said Academy President Mike Greene of the New 'Musicares' Foundation and the Billboard Campaign.

"I think there is a real responsibility if you are predisposed to talk to those people through your lyrics or billboards. Our industry has to talk about the realities of being in music and about the realities of drugs to these kids."

So many musicians are watching themselves

waking up, Greene says.

"There are enough people that are seeing the ravages firsthand of that type of abusive behaviour," Greene says. "We are the first generation to bear witness to it, and if we're supposed to be an enlightened society, we're supposed to learn from history."

Warning

One of the billboards bearing rock star's warning and a toll-free drug hotline number went up along the fabled Sunset Strip recently at a ceremony attended by such artists as Rapper Foster Sylvers and Hy Tech and members of House of Lords and Oingo Boingo.

Elaine Johnson, director of the Federal Substance Abuse Programme, hopes the rock stars' message reaches inner-city and high-risk youth. "Many of these young people have been turned off by the traditional health systems, and so do not generally receive or attend to health messages delivered by physicians, parents, teachers or clergy," she says.

Crosby, who along with Paul Abdul, Gloria Estefan and Young MC will appear on some of the billboards, believes the warnings will hit home for some hard-to-reach youngsters. "When I talk to kids I don't have to establish my credentials, they know who I am and they know what I did," he says.

"This is the very gradual erosion of peer pressure," Greene says. "It's something which has become a lifestyle for kids in the country and 10 million billboards can't change it overnight."

"Being different and being rebellious are inherent in the rock 'n' roll lifestyle, but one of the things Bonnie Raitt said is that you don't have to conform to go straight off of substances," Greene says. "She made it quite clear she'll be as bad as bad, just as anti-establishment as she has been before, but there wasn't any reason to kill herself in the process."

From the jazz era to rap, great artists have ruined their health and lost fortunes to drugs. Greene, whose father was a big-band leader, says he realised the industry needed a support foundation after he helped raise money for the late band leader Woody Herman, who died of liver disease.

On the Record

Captivating medley of musical notes

POP LAURIE Anderson, *Strange Angels* (Warner Brothers, 9.25/90-92)

Laurie Anderson may have finally realised she has a great voice that is as captivating as the multimedia performance art on stage she is best known for. Her latest work, *Strange Angels*, combines sometimes witty notions of life at the close of the 20th century with powerful musical arrangements enhanced by dynamic vocals.

Not since "Mister Heartbreak," which featured Peter Gabriel on several cuts, has Anderson pursued such a mainstream pop music sound. But Anderson followers aren't complaining. The soothing sounds of the well-produced recording have not taken away from Anderson's reputation for producing thoughtful music with hidden meanings and ideas that leave the listener searching for his or her own interpretation.

Afro-Latin rhythms, although mostly electronically produced, take *Strange Angels* beyond the realm of dance music. Like David Byrne's recent solo project, Anderson is turning sometimes uninteresting white music from North America into a multi-cultural genre.

That's not a bad idea for a country that calls itself a melting pot.

Pop-Jazz

DEBORAH Henson-Contant, *Caught in the Act* (GRP, GRD-9606)

Deborah Henson-Contant sure has helped dash preconceptions about the role of the harp with her jazz touch and ability to mix it up with a swing-style trio in recent years.

But she is also not about to settle into a groove, either. *Caught in the Act*, her second major label recording, breaks out of the jazz category in a move of a pop direction - some would call it contemporary jazz.

There is very little improvisation involved here, aside from Henson-Contant's solo rendition of Green's "Sleeves," though the session does have its swinging moments, as on *Night of the Roses*.

It's not bad, mind you, merely a change of focus for this talented lady. The band features special EPX co-leaders Cheli Minnick and George Lind, with violinist Noel Porter offering some ethereal counterpoint to the harp on the title track and *The Magic Str*.

elements is the instrumental support between Henson-Contant's harps (a standard concert harp and a hand-held solo harp that looks like a Greek guitar) and Linda's exotic percussion.

Country

The Highwaymen, *Highwaymen II* (Columbia, 45740)

The first album released by the Highwaymen in 1985 went platinum. And the group, composed of Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson, is now out with a follow-up. And this time the four country veterans will tour together to back this release.

The music on this effort is disappointing overall. Two stories high, peered by Nelson, is an exception. It's a superior quality tune about life being too long to worry about and too short to cry about.

Angels love bad men, co-written by Jennings and Roger Murrah, is another better than average song. It's hard to see what the Highwaymen are getting at with this non-distinctive music. But then, the music on the first album wasn't very good either and it went platinum.

Classical

Michael Tilson-Thomas, London Symphony, *Tchaikovsky: Manfred Symphony* (CBS, Masterworks 36673)

Tchaikovsky wrote six numbered symphonies, three delightful early ones and three emotional, acclaimed late ones.

But between the 4th and 5th symphonies he also wrote *Manfred*, and why people don't count this with the others is hard to figure. It's programmatic (story-telling) but so what? His numbered symphonies are descriptive, too.

And *Manfred* is organised with the right number of movements and the right mix of tempos to fit the most conventional idea of symphony format.

You may have avoided *Manfred* on the theory that if it were any good it would be played as often as the symphonies with numbers. Big mistake. Its themes grab you from the first yet they also wear well. Its orchestration is rich and satisfying. Several new recordings of *Manfred* have become available, but none improves on this bargain-priced masterpiece offering. No part of the symphony is quiet enough for the analog master to be a problem and many of the newer digital recordings sound hard.

LANCASHIRE

JUNIOR TIMES

Wordsearch

A DAY ON THE FARM

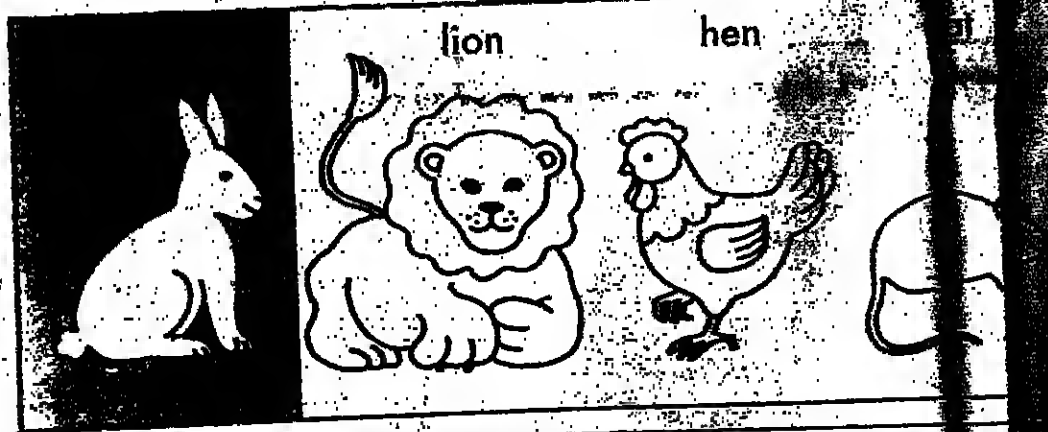
Milk the cows, plow the fields, collect the eggs! Life on a farm is not easy work, and dawn-to-dusk days aren't unusual. Let's grab a pencil and find 35 farm activities.

ALFALFA	CLOVER	GRASS	POND	TRUCK
XX	CORN	HARROW	PONY	WELL
BALES	COWS	HAY	PUMP	WHEAT
BARLEY	DISC	HORSE	RAKE	
BARN	DOG	IRRIGATE	ROOT CELLAR	
BEANS	EARLY	MILKING	SEED	
BREAKFAST	FEED	PIG	SHOVEL	
CATTLE	FENCE	PLANTING	STRAW	
CHICKENS	FURROW	FLOW	TRACTOR	

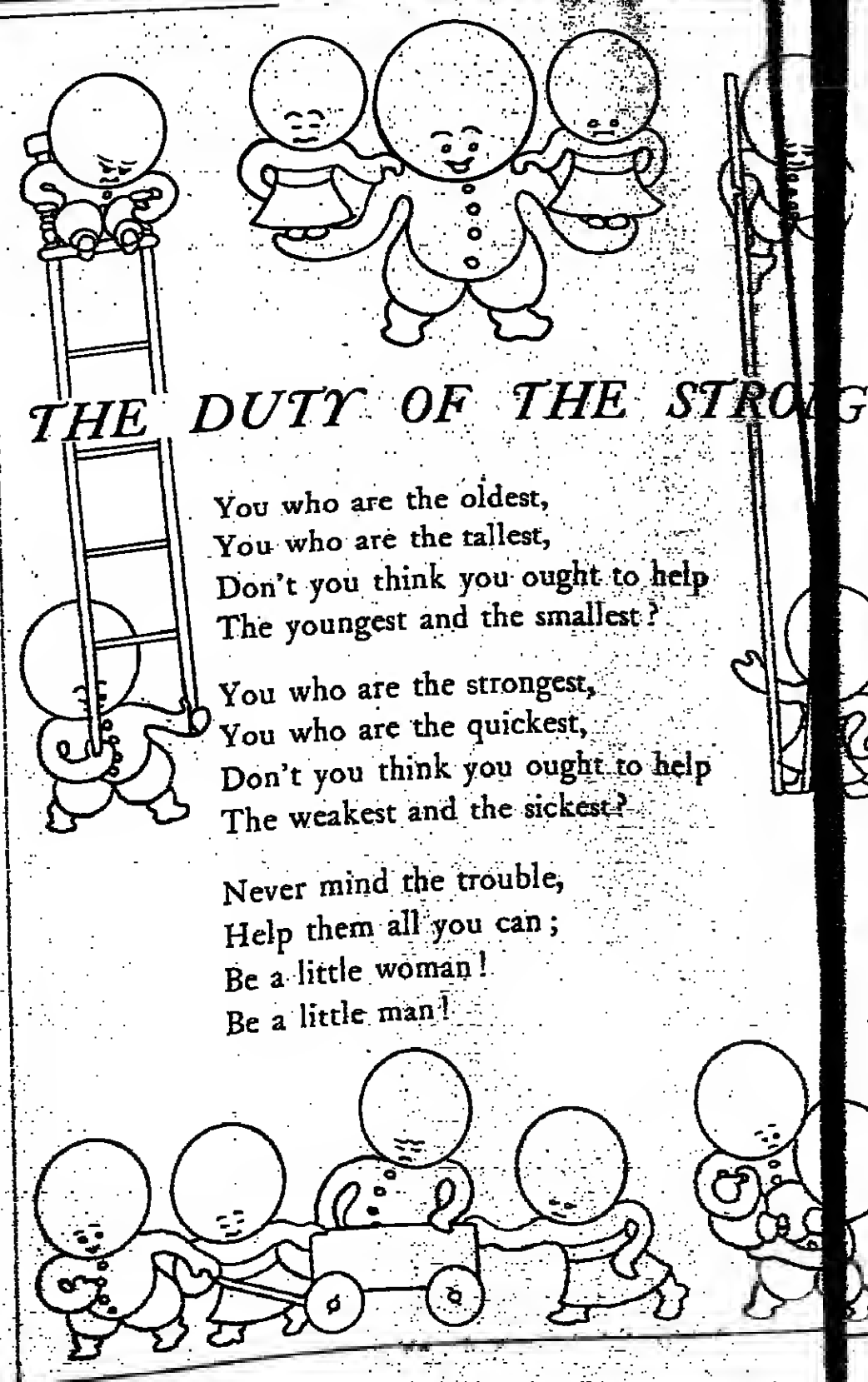
S N A E B G S C T R U C K Z X
Y A M P R M I L K I N G S S R
G N I T N A L P W D V E U S T
X B O Y S F K G E H L I J A K
A D C P P A L E T A G I R R I
S W O R R U F O B W C P A G E
N M N T X Z M K L W O L P A J
E L E S R O H P A N L R K L H
K E L T T A C T D E E T R F G
C F E N C E C Q C V R W U A F
I Q V D Y C Y T O X V B T L H
H P O A C R O L O L A D A F Q
C G H U N O C R R R L Z E A T
M O S T R A W X N A Y E H E R
B A R L E Y C S I D E U W V S

Sounds at the beginning of words

Look carefully at the animal in the box. Say its name. Look at the animal in the group which starts with the same sound as the one in the box.



The Goops again



THE DUTY OF THE STRONG

You who are the oldest,
You who are the tallest,
Don't you think you ought to help
The youngest and the smallest?

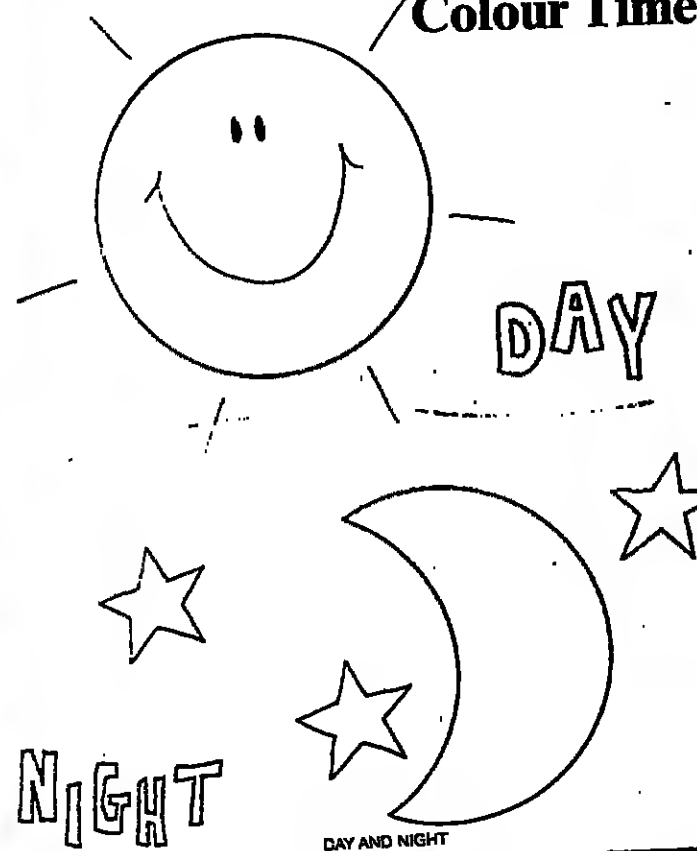
You who are the strongest,
You who are the quickest,
Don't you think you ought to help
The weakest and the sickest?

Never mind the trouble,
Help them all you can;
Be a little woman!
Be a little man!



THIS poster, designed by the young artist, Luca Ciocchetti of Biella, Italy, was chosen as the best at a judging held in Milan. It was the winner of the 1989 poster competition sponsored by Lions Club International calling for entries over the world. The poster was displayed at the 'World' exhibition.

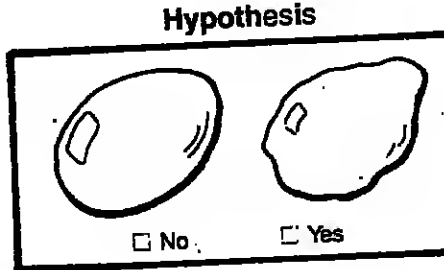
Colour Time



Acid Action

Water sometimes mixes with other elements to make a weak ACID. Acid can wear away rock by eating away at the minerals in some kinds of rock. This changes the rock's hardness.

? Can a weak acid like vinegar eat away the mineral calcium in an eggshell and make the eggshell soft? Color your answer.



Materials Needed: raw egg, vinegar, small cup

- Procedure
- Carefully place a raw egg in a small, clear cup.
 - Pour vinegar over the egg until the egg is completely covered.
 - Wait two days. Do not touch the egg.
 - Draw a picture and write some words to tell what happened to the egg after two days in vinegar.



Vinegar Egg

Results and Conclusions

- Did the vinegar eat away the hardness of the eggshell?
- Is that what you thought would happen?
- What did you learn?

Dear Junior readers,

Most of you know what goals are in football, but have you thought about goals in other ways?

Goals are things that we want to accomplish. Some people set long-term goals that they hope to accomplish in five or ten years, sometimes longer, and others set goals that they hope to reach within a week or even a day.

Setting goals helps you to organise your time by knowing the exact thing you want to have done within a certain period of time. For example, as a student you may have daily goals of completing your home work, reading for 45 minutes, memorising parts of your favourite book or poem and cleaning your room.

You might have things that you want to finish before the week is completed, and many of you have already started thinking about what you want to do when you finish your studies and are preparing now for that long-term goal.

Try organising your time by writing down your daily and weekly goals. Check them at the end of the day and week and see how much you have accomplished.

Manal

Join the dots

At Home!



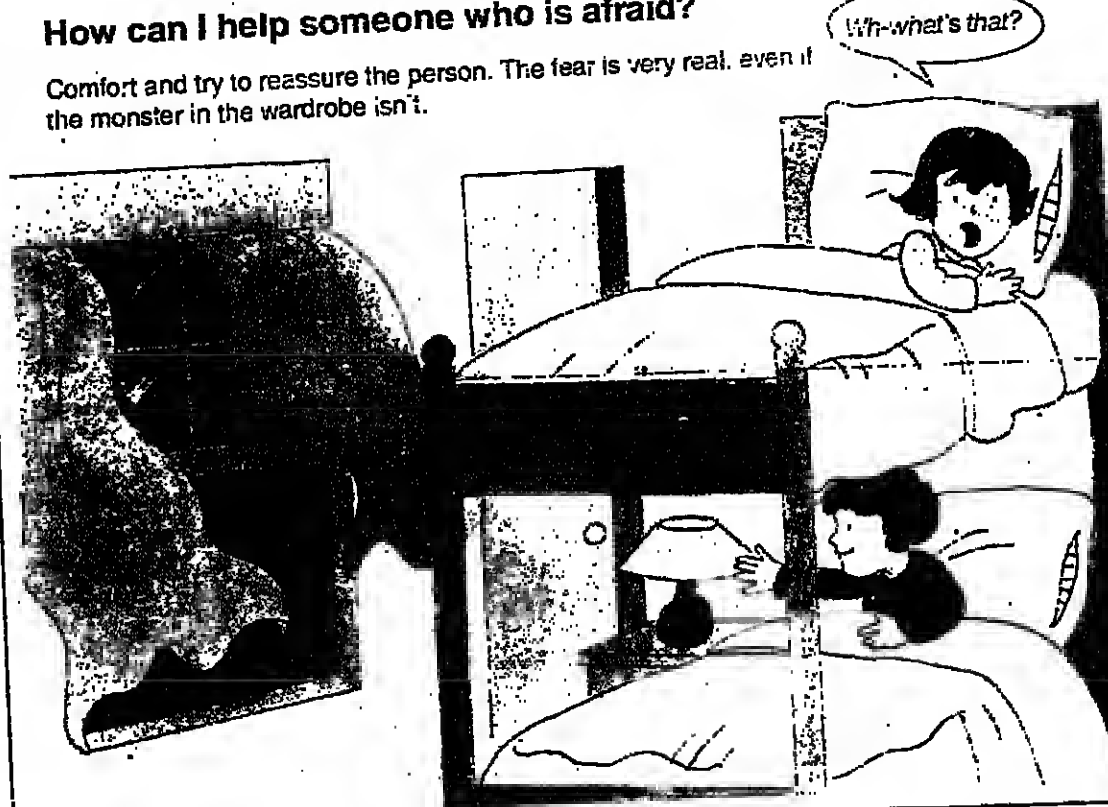
Questions you'd like to ask

Why do I get scared in the dark?

Because you can't see in the dark, you start imagining things that aren't there. A curtain fluttering at the window becomes a ghost floating in the air, and a creaky door becomes the step of a monster. Turn on the light and you'll see that everything is just the same as it was before you turned off the light.

How can I help someone who is afraid?

Comfort and try to reassure the person. The fear is very real, even if the monster in the wardrobe isn't.



What comes next?

A C E G I _ _ _
2 4 8 16 32 _ _ _
S M T W T _ _ _
1 3 6 10 15 _ _ _
J F M A M _ _ _

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

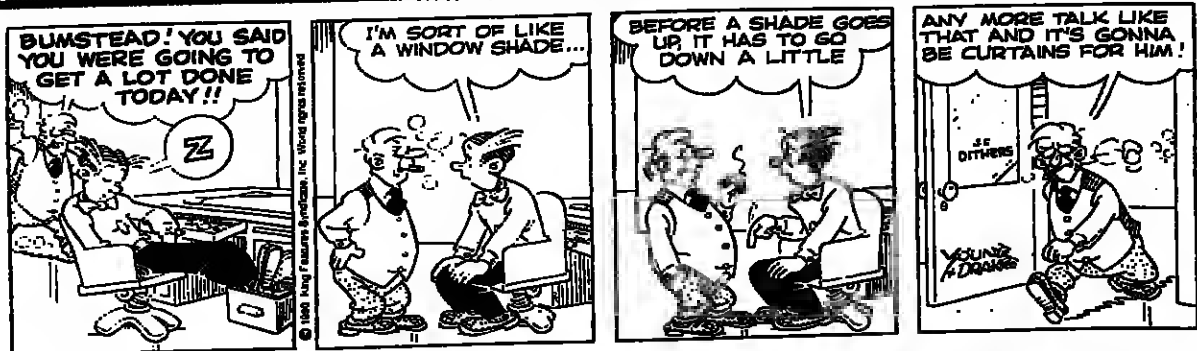
Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

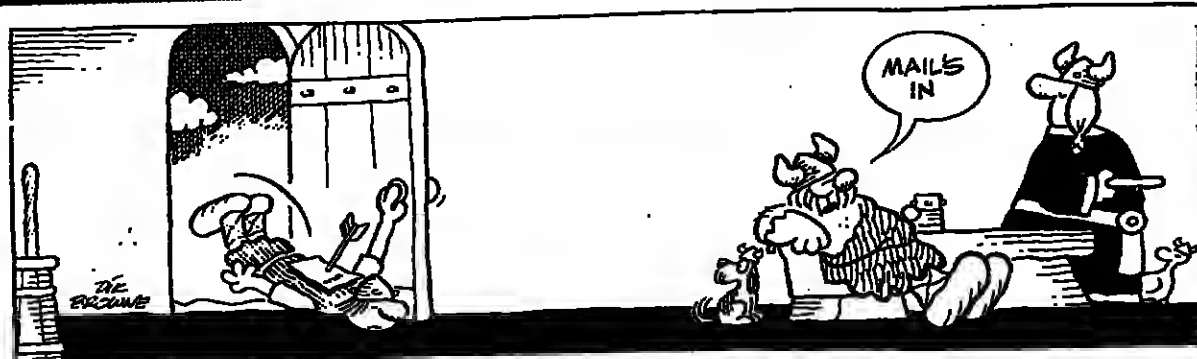
Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid delayed greetings please send within a week before the special date

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



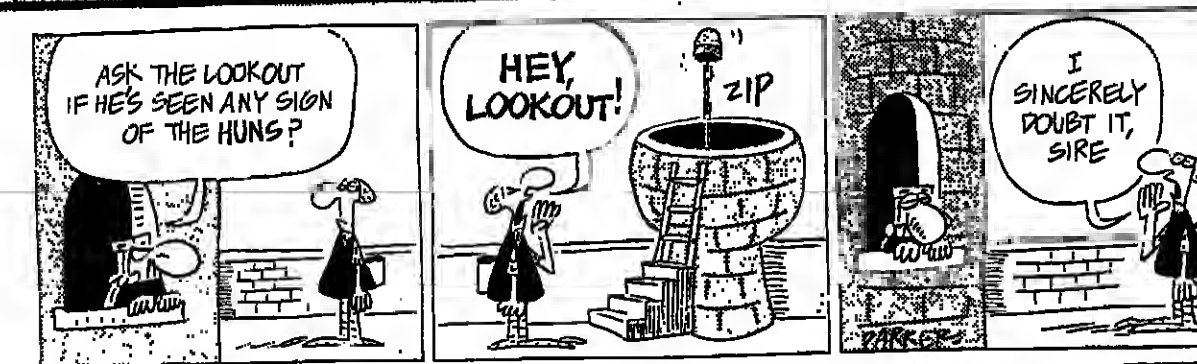
AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



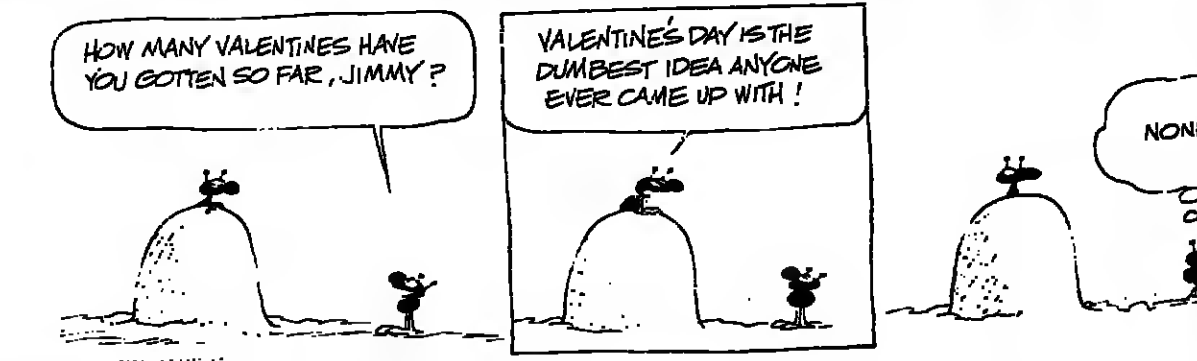
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



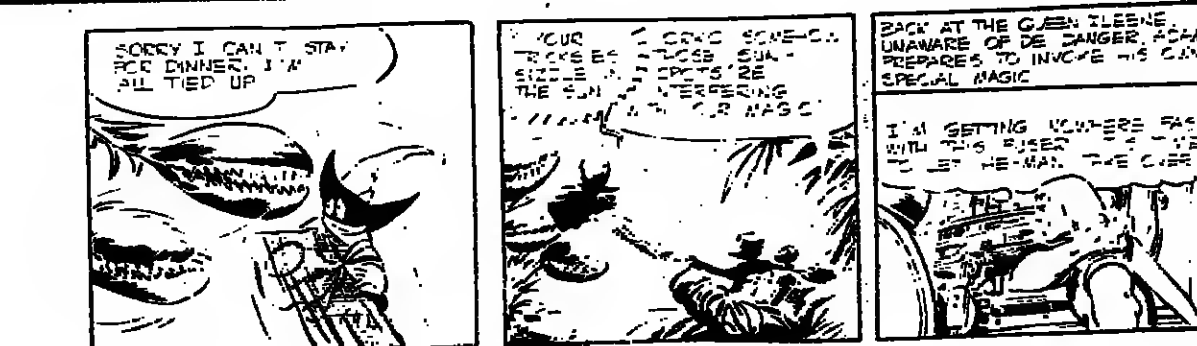
ANDY CAPP



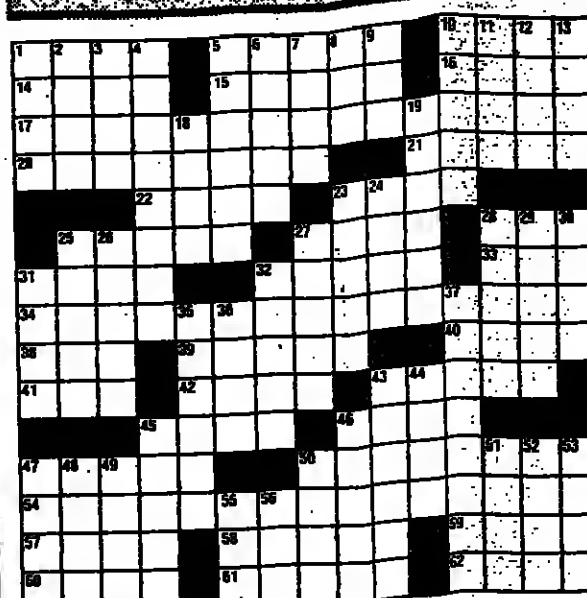
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bread unit
 - 2 Roman emperor
 - 3 Olympian hawk
 - 4 Important anniversary for American Ballet Theatre
 - 5 Fooled
 - 6 Had a yen for
 - 7 Use the marina
 - 8 Rubinstein's "Melody"
 - 9 Part of I.e.
 - 10 Siskel's partner
 - 11 Buyer's concern
 - 12 Nile queen
 - 13 Impetuosity
 - 14 "Able was"
 - 15 "The Legend of Sleepy"
 - 16 Complains
 - 17 Down
 - 18 Critic Barnes
 - 19 Horse-racing prize
 - 20 Cary or Lee
 - 21 "Meek as"
 - 22 Governor Cuomo
 - 23 Golden ide
 - 24 Tunisian
 - 25 Slightly open
 - 26 "I've — every little star..."
 - 27 Corkwood
 - 28 Latin case
 - 29 Like — (floundering)
 - 30 Irish lake
 - 31 Romberg's "One —"
 - 32 J.F. Cooper heroine
 - 33 Suit of yore
 - 34 Circus employee
 - 35 Slip or granny
- DOWN**
- 1 Plaster backing
 - 2 Moslem prince
 - 3 Mendelssohn oratorio
 - 4 Baltic Sea port
 - 5 Sea biscuit
 - 6 Links user
 - 7 "There ought to be —"
 - 8 Black-Ink item
 - 9 Steak choice
 - 10 Folk singer Joan
 - 11 Mod hair style
 - 12 Typesetting machine, for short
 - 13 It's often smashed
 - 14 Take — the chin
 - 15 — Beach, Fla.
 - 16 Part of QED
 - 17 Feedback tidbit
 - 18 Spit follower

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

RACER CAR BRIANT
ATHLETIC ATE OUTIER
SDUNO PHILATELITY
EPT BARONET MSS
SEAMAN TEAPOT
SHIRRS GDRIGONS
HUMAN GROUSE
EGG FAULT QUD
APPRISE SALLINE
PUREST TEASEL
PRE PERIODY TRI
ASTRODOME IDIOT
LUTES TIEM MANSE
LEYTE DDA EDIGER

YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20

A technical innovation will help you to deal with an annoying problem. Whilst you should not linger, slowly but surely your best policy. Do not do anything obviously bad for your health. Be respectful.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You should do your best to clear your mind of all the clutter. Do not expect others to tidy up for you and try to avoid making a mess. You should avoid acting on the spur of the moment. Be sincere.



Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22

You are in danger of upsetting the harmony with your partner and should do all you can to avoid doing so. Make sure you get enough rest as well as sufficient exercise. Work hard, but do not neglect your personal affairs. Be punctual.



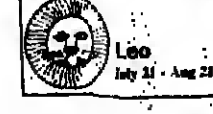
Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19

You will tend to be a little nervous and should do all you can to calm yourself. You should be prepared to learn the lesson of experience. And if you think you are too old to learn, you are in trouble. Be more patient.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Something you have been putting off must be dealt with without further delay. You should try to avoid making mistakes rather than seeking to correct them later. Make sure you do not alienate a friend. Be moderate.



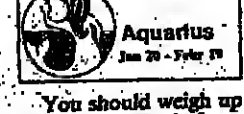
Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

You are able to come to the wrong conclusions, so beware. Your financial situation requires immediate attention, before it gets a lot worse. Do not entirely ignore the views and opinions of others. Be reliable.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

Something you had thought would be very difficult will turn out to be easier than you had expected. You should take a better care of your health. Make sure you are correctly dressed for the occasion and the temperature. Be more frugal.



Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 18

You should weigh up the alternatives carefully before making up your mind. Something you thought would be most difficult will turn out to be relatively easy. That is only because of your previous efforts to learn, proving that it was not a waste of time. Be moderate.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Something to which you had been looking forward will come up to expectation. You will be better able to deal with an awkward situation. Keep an open mind towards change but do not rush into it. Be tolerant.



Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22

You are on the right track even though it may not look like it at the moment. A temptation to invest in what looks like "easy money" is a trap. Take care while on the road whether waiting or driving. Be sensible.



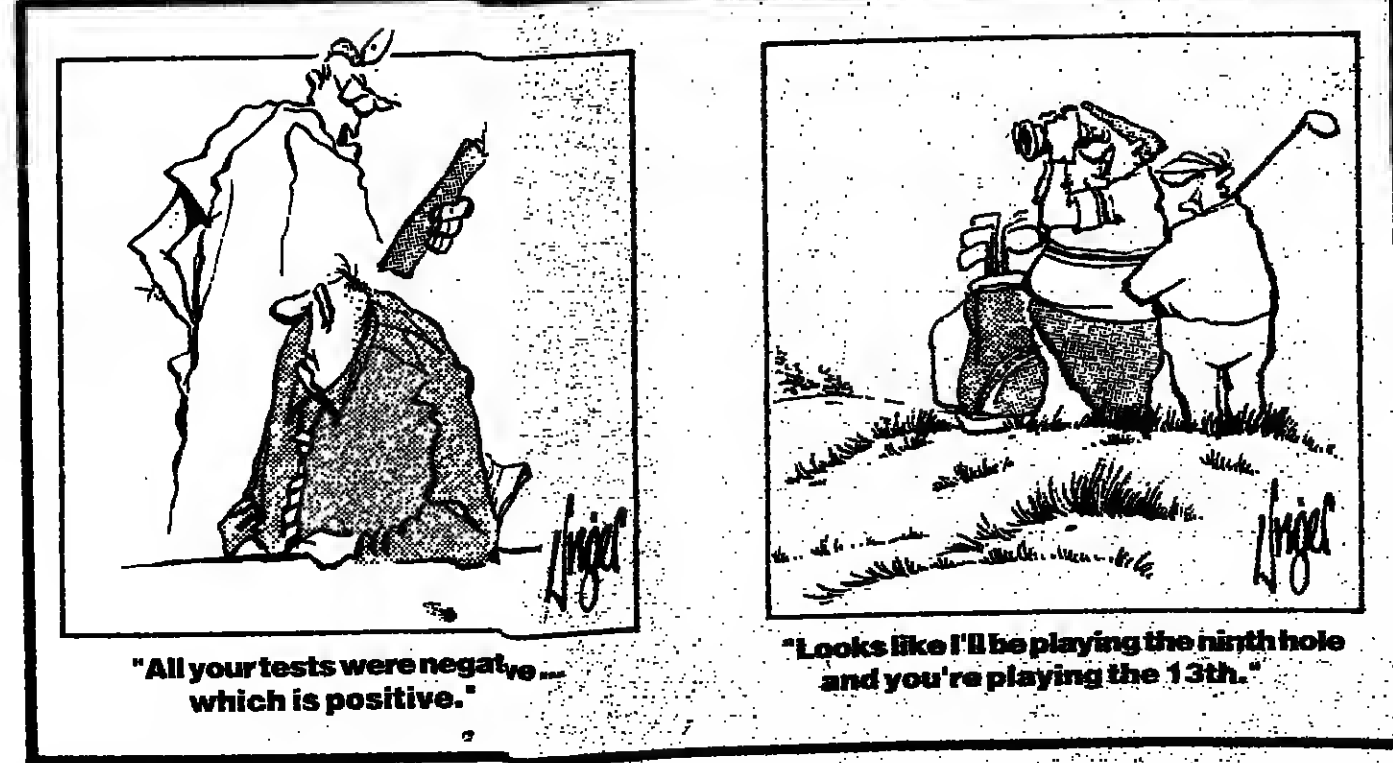
Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 21

You will have the wind in your sails, but you should ask yourself whether you are heading in the right direction. Do not allow yourself to be dazzled by the magnitude of the task ahead of you; just get on with it.



Pisces
Feb 19 - March 20

You are all too liable to take things for granted; don't. Do not expect others always to agree with you, or to be ready to help you. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 27. You should avoid breaking any kind of promise. Be sincere.



Kasparov loses in 54 moves

LINARES, Spain, Feb 28, (AP): Boris Gelfand beat world chess champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union yesterday in an eight round match in the Linares International Chess Tournament.

Gelfand, playing whites, defeated Kasparov in 54 moves.

After his defeat Kasparov shared first place in the standings with fellow Soviet Boris Gelfand, who defeated Boris Spassky of France.

Gelfand is a US citizen who was born in the Soviet Union. In other games yesterday, Miguel Illescas of Spain defeated Arthur Yusupov of the Soviet Union, and Lajos Portisch of Hungary defeated Nigel Short of Britain.

Valery Salov of the Soviet Union drew his match with Vasily Ivanchuk of the Soviet Union, and Alexander Beljavsky of the Soviet Union also drew with Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia.

Kasparov and Gelfand have six points each, followed by Salov with 5.5, short and Ivanchuk with 4.5, Beljavsky with four, Gelfand and Yusupov with 3.5, Illescas, Portisch and Spassky with 2.5 and Ljubojevic with two.

Aouita scores 2nd 3,000m victory in four days Elliott breaks world 1,500m indoor record

SEVILLE, Spain, Feb 28, (Reuters): Britain's Peter Elliott shaved more than a second off the world indoor 1,500 metres record at an international athletics meeting yesterday.

Elliott ran three minutes 34.21 seconds to break the previous record of 3:35.60 set by Ireland's Marcus O'Sullivan in New Jersey just over a year ago.

Elliott, Olympic silver medalist and Commonwealth Games 1,500 metres champion, was helped by American Kent Washington who set a fast pace in the first 800 metres.

When Elliott broke free he quickly went 10 metres ahead of his field and at the finish had more than two and half seconds to spare over second-placed Herve Philippeau of France.

Said Aouita won his second 3,000 metres in four days, passing Sydney Maree of the United States in the last 150 metres and won in 7:45.14, more than four slower than his winning time in Stockholm last Saturday.

American Johnny Gray set another year's best in the 800 metres, clocking 1:45.64.

Jamaica's Merlene Ottey won the 200 metres in 22.77 seconds and went on to register a season best 7.15 seconds in the 60 metres.

Sergei Bubka of the Soviet



Peter Elliott shows his effort in his face as he approaches the finish line. (Reuters wirephoto)

Union won the pole vault event with 5.92 metres, this season's best performance, but he failed to break his own world record of 6.06 and did not clear 6.05 metres after three tries.



Elliott waves from the podium after his victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

Javier Garcia Chico of Spain was second with 5.67 and Philippe Collet of France was third with 5.62.

Robson da Silva of Brazil won the 200 metres in 20.82. Second was Cayetano Cornejo of Spain in 21.16 and third was Floyd Heard of the United States in 21.17.

Calvin Smith of the United States, former world record-holder in 100-metre dash and bronze medalist in the 100 at Seoul Olympics, was fourth in 20.05 metres in 21.51.

Roger Kingdom of the United States, two-time Olympic champion in the 110-metre hurdles and world indoor champion in

The largest programme, totalling \$720,000, involves monthly stipends ranging from \$280 to \$330. The top amount will go to athletes who won individual medals in international World Cup competition last year or who were ranked in the top five in the world during the 1989 season.

Athletes who were ranked 6-10 in the world will receive \$500 a month; those who won National Outdoor Championships but were not World Cup medal winners or ranked among the top 10 will get \$330 a month. National outdoor runner-up and the top-ranked Americans not included in any other categories will receive \$280 a month.

Funding for the programme comes from the general operating budget of TAC, the governing body for track and field in the United States, and the US Olympic Committee's athlete subsistence programme. Athletes participating in this programme must agree to compete in the US Outdoor Track and Field Championships and two national team competitions if selected.

Athletes with NCAA eligibility remaining will not receive payments until after the NCAA Championships meet. The initial list of eligible athletes includes 99 men and 61 women.

Kilikiti replaces cricket in Pacific

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb 28, (Reuters): It's just not cricket, purists would murmur, but Kilikiti is colourful, action-packed and can be useful in defusing tribal warfare.

In this Pacific game, cricket's standard, white cricket flannels are replaced with colourful lavalavas (skirts worn by men or women) and the traditional English village green setting is swapped for a dusty south Pacific island community.

Batsmen wield long triangular devices made from the flax tree rather than the traditional willow bat and the conventional leather ball is replaced by a hard, smaller rubber ball.

"We don't play with the straight bat approved at Lords (the hallowed centre of cricket in London) but the result can be a bit more spectacular," said Sefita Haouli, director of a recent Kilikiti tournament in Auckland.

New Zealand's biggest city, where 10 per cent of the population of almost one million live on Pacific islands, hosts the international competition annually.

Rules vary in Tonga, the Samoan Islands, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Cook Islands and Tokelau where Kilikiti is played, but they have been standardised for the Auckland tournament.

In independent Western Samoa and neighbouring American Samoa, teams may comprise a whole village. Up to 120 people per side can play — up from the traditional 11 — and rules are negotiated before play begins.

Missionaries introduced cricket late last century and islanders soon adapted it to Pacific conditions with gusto. In Samoa and Tonga Kilikiti became so popular during the 1930s and 40s it had to be restricted because work was forgotten.

The game, which is played on a flat, open area, is played with a long, thin bat and a small, hard ball. It is played in a way that is similar to cricket, but with different rules.

One legendary game in American Samoa in 1921 took nine days and the result is still in dispute.

"In the end the ball was lodged in a coconut tree and somebody climbed the tree while the winning runs were made. There was no provision for that situation in the understanding of the game," said Haouli.

Today people still argue whether the batsman was caught out or not.

Four-day games are quick — 40 minutes per side — colourful and frantic.

Conventional cricket's blocking shots, in which the batsman merely defends his wicket but makes no attempt to score runs, are anathema to Kilikiti.

"The idea is to hit the ball wicket. There's no fear just blocking," said spectator Maiva Samoa, one of Auckland's 60,000 Samoan residents and part of a crowd of several thousand watching the tournament.

Purists might also disapprove of the co-ordinated whistling, chanting and dancing by the fielding side in Kilikiti. But these distractions for the batsmen are often drowned out by the singing, clapping and shouting of the crowd.

The game is usually played for money or a prize. "In the Cook Islands they might negotiate that the losing fish for the winners for three days," Haouli said.

Women play it as avidly as men although the rules are slightly different. Women may bowl underarm and have 22 per side against 20 for men under Auckland tournament rules.

Marina Schaafhausen said the tournament is good for Kilikiti which is struggling in her native Western Samoa.

10th Gulf Football Championship

بيتزا ايطاليا PIZZA ITALIA Quiz Competition

in co-operation with

ARAB TIMES العربية

Who will win the Arab Gulf Cup?

GENERAL RULES:



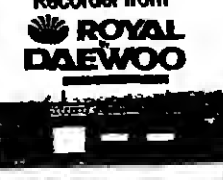


1. Newspaper coupon is only accepted if attached to Pizza Italia receipt for purchase of minimum KD 3.000
2. You can enter as many coupons to increase your winning chances.
3. Drop the coupon in the designated boxes at Pizza Italia Outlets.
4. Valid until March 5th 1990.

FIRST PRIZE



TOYOTA COROLLA

Mohamed Nasser Al-Sayer & Sons Est.

2. T.V. from 	3. Video from 	4. Stereo/Tape Recorder from 	5. Washing machine 
6. KD 50/- Gift Voucher 7. KD 50/- Gift Voucher	8. KD 50/- Gift Voucher 9. KD 50/- Gift Voucher	10. KD 25/- Gift Voucher 11. KD 25/- Gift Voucher	12. to 16. Watch from 

Also two subscriptions for one year for العربية and two for ARAB TIMES

CONTEST QUESTIONS:

1. When was the first Gulf Cup Tournament held?
Country: _____ Year: _____
2. Name the player who scored the most goals in a single tournament?
3. Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

Competition coupon

Name (Full): _____
Civil Number: _____
Age: _____
Address: _____

Maradona may play in exhibitions

MILAN, Italy, Feb 28, (AP): Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona, sidelined with back pains last Sunday, says he's willing to play some exhibition games with his national team in preparation for the World Cup.

Maradona was quoted by Milan's sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport as saying that he hopes to be released by Napoli for two exhibitions Argentina will play in Glasgow on March 28 and in Barcelona on April 4.

Italian clubs must release their foreign stars for official matches of their national teams but can oppose their use in exhibitions.

Meanwhile, the Argentine forward yesterday underwent treatment by his personal doctor Rubel Oliva to heal recurrent back pains.

Maradona's absence coincided with Napoli's 1-3 defeat against Inter in Sunday's championship action. The loss dropped the Neapolitan team two points behind league leader AC Milan in the overall standings.

Hateley out

PARIS, Feb 28, (Reuters): Monaco's English striker Mark Hateley was to undergo surgery to his left ankle in London today and be out of action for at least two months, the French side said yesterday.

Hateley, injured after scoring in Sunday's 2-2 draw with French champions Marseille, is suffering from torn ligaments.

"We will only know afterwards how long it will take for his recovery, but we expect him to be out of action for at least two months or even more," said Monaco's technical manager Henri Biancheri.

Hateley was plagued by injury for seven months last year.

Southampton rout Norwich

LONDON, Feb 28, (Reuters): Matthew Tisserand enhanced his chances of winning an England cap by scoring a second half hat-trick in Southampton's 4-1 English First Division soccer win over Norwich yesterday.

Norwich, leading through Martin Allen's goal at halftime, were unable to cope with Le Tissier's expertise after the break. He scored in the 55th, 60th and 85th minutes to take his tally for the season to 19.

Champions Arsenal could have done with Le Tissier's sharpness near the goal in their goalless draw with bottom club Charlton.

Arsenal, nine points adrift of First Division leaders Aston Villa, rarely threatened to break the deadlock.

Cambridge United became the

fourth side from the Fourth Division to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals with a 5-1 home win over Third Division leaders Bristol City in their fifth round replay.

Three goals in seven minutes in either side of halftime earned Cambridge a tie with First Division Crystal Palace.

Results
English Football Association (FA) Cup
Fourth round, second replay:
Cambridge U 5 Bristol City 1
(Winner plays Crystal Palace in quarter-finals on March 10)

English Division One:
Charlton 0 Arsenal 0
Southampton 4 Norwich 0
Postponed: Liverpool v Derby
Scottish FA Cup fourth round:
Cowdenbeath 1 Dunfermline 2
(Winner plays Celtic in quarter-finals on March 12)

Unauthorised tour sales worry Cup organisers

ROME, Feb 28, (Reuters): The sale of unauthorised tour packages for the World Cup in Italy next summer might lead to violence between rival fans, worried soccer officials said yesterday.

The Italian organising committee's Mario Quadrino told a news conference the biggest problem was in Latin America and Spain, where one particular private tour operator was involved. He refused to name the company.

"We are very, very concerned... we do not know where the tickets could have come from," Quadrino said.

Fearing violence at the matches in June and July, organisers have tried all ways of preventing black market ticket sales so that hooligans with a record can be kept away.

The official outlet for match tickets is the Organisation 90 Tour which sells them as part of holiday packages. All others are sold through a leading Italian bank or national soccer federations.

Quadrino said tourists might find themselves in the same part of the grounds as fans from other countries leading to violence.

Guido Tognoni, Fife (International Football Federation), press chief, issued a similar warning against illegal sales and said only 90 tour had the right to sell the packages.

The official organisation has already sold 90 billion lire (\$72 million) worth of tourist packages and expects to sell 40 billion lire (\$32 million) worth more by the end of April.

Fernandez reinstated

CANNES, France, Feb 28, (Reuters): French international midfielder Luis Fernandez was reinstated yesterday by his club Cannes after a row with his coach but is unlikely to play soon with the First Division side, club sources said.

Fernandez, a member of the superb French midfield quartet which won the 1984 European Championship and reached the semifinals of the 1986 World Cup, was last Friday barred from playing by trainer Jean Fernandez, who is no relation, for "continuous misbehaviour".

Cannes board, which met on Monday, asked Fernandez to formally apologise to his coach or face expulsion from the club. Sources said he did apologise yesterday but had been told to train with the club's third team.

He would therefore not be available for the French League First Division side for the time being.

Fernandez joins last summer after a year out of the game because of injury and a dispute with his previous club, Marseilles.

He played alongside Michel Platini, Alain Giresse and Jean Tigana in a French midfield considered to be among the greatest of modern times.

Documents bind Douglas to Don King

LAS VEGAS, Feb 28, (AP): Court documents show that new heavyweight champ Buster Douglas gave Don King the right to promote all his title fights if he beat Mike Tyson and promotional rights for another two years once he loses the title.

Douglas agreed to the terms in a Dec 27, 1988 contract that gave him a \$25,000 signing fee and a promised fight with Tyson, according to documents on file in US district court here.

The contract binds the new heavyweight champion exclusively to King for three years "with an automatic extension to cover all fights should you win the title," plus an additional two years after that.

The contract — and a second pact that covers the Tyson fight itself — were filed as part of a suit by Douglas and the Mirage Hotel-casino, who are seeking to have them declared invalid so Douglas can sign a \$60 million, two-fight pact with the resort.

Also filed was a letter from King's attorney, Robert Hirth, to Mirage operator Steve Wynn, warning that interference with any of the contracts "will not be tolerated."

Attorneys for Douglas claim the contracts are illegal because Nevada law does not allow promoters to tie up boxes with options on future fights. They also contend that King breached the contracts by not acting in good faith when he protested the results of the Douglas-Tyson fight earlier this month.

"It would be very bad for the state of Nevada as well as Mr Douglas to have these kind of contracts... enforced," said Stan Hunterton, Douglas' attorney.

According to the first contract Douglas signed with King, the fighter was to be given four fights between Feb 25, 1989, and Feb 25, 1990, with a Tyson bout occurring before Feb 25, 1990.



Douglas (left) officiating a World Wrestling Federation title bout between Hulk Hogan and Macho Man Randy Savage recently. Hulk Hogan won that fight.

LAUGOLITA

NFL expands length of new season

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (Reuters): The National Football League yesterday said it will add pre-season games in West Germany and Canada this year and expand the length of its 16-game schedule to provide off-weeks for teams during the regular season.

Under the new format, the 1990 and 1991 seasons will be played over 17 weeks, giving each team one open weekend. That will be further expanded to 16 games over 18 weeks in 1992 and 1993, giving teams two open weekends.

The league also announced it would add two more games to its American Bowl series that had previously consisted of pre-season contests in England and Japan.

The first NFL game in Germany will be played on August 11, between the Los Angeles Rams and the Kansas City Chiefs in either Berlin or Frankfurt, commissioner Paul Tagliabue said.

On August 5, the American Bowl series returns to Tokyo, where the Denver Broncos will face the Seattle Seahawks, and to London for a fifth successive year, where the Los Angeles Raiders will play the New Orleans Saints.

Montreal has also been added to the pre-season schedule. The Pittsburgh Steelers will play the New England Patriots there on August 9.

Next season will begin as planned on September 9, and the 25th Super Bowl will take place as scheduled on January 27 in Tampa, Florida. However, to allow for the new format, there will be an off-weekend between the conference championship game and the Super Bowl.

Snowden and Seward help Casuals win

CASUALS Cricket Club upset CCK when they comfortably beat them at Ahmad on Friday.

Batting first, CCK were soon suffering at the hands of Richard Snowden, whose recent run of five runs shows no signs of waning. Zaheer was his first victim in a misery spell which produced 2 wickets from 8 overs for just 31 runs.

At the other end Adi Selvarajam showed a return to the form which made him one of the most respected bowlers in the League, and CCK made a slow start. With a change of bowling the CCK batsmen began to build up their score.

Amanullah (34), Raees (39), Fazal (29) and Faissal (23) all made significant contributions to an eventual total of 180. Ron Seward claimed 3 wickets during this spell to add to his growing haul for the season.

In reply, Casuals opted for the new partnership of Kevin Wells and John Artois-Powell (20). For the former it was a welcome return to match action after a prolonged spell of injury. The pair showed their intention early with a play of picking up ones and twos off almost every ball.

The score rose rapidly to 50 off 8 overs before JAP was adjudged run out after some debate as to whether the wicket-keeper had made contact with the stumps.

Skipper Simon Clements made a brief visit to the crease before being dismissed off the spin of Rifat. This allowed the entry of Ron Seward but the run rate had dropped slightly below the asking rate during this spell and Wells, in an effort to ease the position, began more adventurous hitting before being given out for 42 off the bowling of Raees.

CCK may have regretted this however as Casuals sent in Adi Selvarajam to push things on. Adi completed his day of wickets and catches by blasting a rapid 46 not out. His aggression allowed Seward to settle into his own stylish game and build up 49 before the close of play.

Casuals had struck 178 in CCK's 28 overs and so were easily declared winners by the faster run rate. For CCK Faissal's 6 overs for 34 runs was probably the most consistent bowling.

Clements sacked

MADRID, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Atletico Madrid sacked coach Javier Clemente yesterday after a weekend slump by Osasuna left them eight points behind Spanish First Division leaders Real Madrid.

"Clemente cannot be satisfied with the second" club president Jesus Gil told a news conference. "Clemente and I are no longer partners."

"I would have liked to end the season with all 11 games left," Clemente, who has been in charge since the beginning of the season, said. "But some in the club may not think so."

"Gil said he had not yet decided on a replacement for Clemente."

Lendl returns home for first time in six years

PRAGUE, Feb. 28. (Reuters): World number one Ivan Lendl returned to his native Czechoslovakia for the first time for six years yesterday to play an exhibition tennis match against compatriot Miloslav Mecir.

Lendl, who won 6-4 3-6 6-2 before a crowd of 14,000, was invited back to his

homeland by the Civic Forum Movement which spearheaded the political opposition that swept Czechoslovakia's communist rulers from power late last year.

Civic Forum asked Lendl to play Mecir to raise money for a children's hospital in Prague.

"I wanted to express my support for the changes in Czechoslovakia since November," Lendl told a news conference.

"What was ruined in the last 40 years cannot be changed instantly... but the atmosphere here is very different now. People are enthusiastic about the changes, they are much more open."

Lendl, who has lived in Connecticut since 1984, hopes to become a US citizen in April 1992.

He ruled out returning to Czechoslovakia's Davis Cup team — which he last played for in 1985 before a

rift with Czechoslovak authorities — in the meantime.

"It would not be correct to play against the country whose citizen I plan to become in two years," Lendl said. "It wouldn't be fair to those who helped me circumvent the waiting time for citizenship."

Navratilova wins easily

Sukova tames Javier



Navratilova: crushed Provis

INDIAN WELLS, California, Feb. 28. (AP): Top-seeded Martina Navratilova remained unbeaten in 1990 by overpowering Nicole Provis of Australia 6-2, 6-0 yesterday in a second-round match of the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Indian Wells tournament.

Navratilova, playing in her third tournament of the year, needed only 49 minutes to dispose of the 20-year-old Provis.

"I was anxious to be playing outdoors," said Navratilova, whose victories in Chicago and Washington earlier this year both came indoors. "I practiced yesterday to try to get used to the outdoors. This surface is pretty slow. It's like sandpaper."

There was only one upset Tuesday — seventh-seeded Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union was beaten by Etsuko Inoue of Japan 6-4, 6-1 in another second-round match.

In other second-round action, second-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain defeated Cammy MacGregor 6-1, 6-2 in just 53 minutes; third-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia rallied for a 4-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-0 victory over Monica Javer of Great Britain; fourth-seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia blitzed Yukie Koizumi of Japan 6-0, 6-0 in just 46 minutes; fifth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria beat Kathy Rinaldi 6-1, 6-3; sixth-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Australia eliminated Kate Gomer 6-4, 6-2, and eighth-seeded Rosalyn Fairbank defeated Nana Miyagi of Japan 6-4, 6-1.

In first-round matches yesterday, ninth-seeded Gigi Fernandez beat Jana Pospisilova of Czechoslovakia, 6-1, 6-3; 11th-seeded Amy Frazier defeated Elena Reinach of South Africa 7-6, 6-3; 12th-seeded Judith Wiesner (12) of Austria downed Lisa Bonder-Kreiss 7-6, 6-0, and Karie Quentrec of France ousted Ann Herrickson 3-6, 7-5, 7-6.

Four world class sailing champions are confirmed for the Gulf's main laser regatta, the British Airways Middle East Championships, due to be held at the Dubai Offshore Sailing Club (DOSC) on March 15 and 16.

Organised by the South East Arabian Gulf Laser Association (Seagla) in conjunction with DOSC, the four champions are being flown to Dubai courtesy of British Airways.

Coming from Holland will be the current ladies world champion Ardis Bultman and Wouter Deutz, who became Dutch Open champion in 1986 and has come second in the last two world championships.

Youngest of the party is 20-year-old Michael Hestback from Denmark who won the European Youth Championship in 1987 and last year won the Europa Cup and came second in the Europeans.

Making a welcome return is Mike Budd from England who came third in Dubai last year. Mike was UK national champion as long ago as 1980 and has come first in the UK qualifiers series every year since 1986.

The four champions will arrive in Dubai on March 10 in help coach local sailors in preparation for the championships. They will be accommodated courtesy of the Hilton Hotel.

A total of 60 boats from as far afield as Egypt are expected to compete for the array of trophies, with the top Seagla sailor winning entrance to the next world championships being held in Newport, Rhode Island in August.



Chang upset on return from injury

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 28. (Reuters): French Open champion Michael Chang's return to competition following a hip injury was stalled yesterday when he lost to fellow American Glenn Layendecker 6-4 6-4 at the \$250,000 Memphis Indoor Tournament.

The second-seeded Chang, who received a bye into the second round, was clearly not in peak condition for his match with the 63rd-ranked Layendecker.

"I played okay, but the mental part is missing a little bit," said the seventh-ranked Chang, who injured his hip last December while practicing. "I've been out so long and haven't played a tournament match. The mental side is not there. I couldn't hold serve when I needed to."

Eighth-seeded Swede Mikael Pernfors also made an early exit. He lost his second round match to Finland's Veli Paloheimo 7-6 6-3.

The 87th-ranked Paloheimo, normally a backcourt player, broke out an aggressive serve-and-volley game for the occasion.

"Usually, I play quite a lot from the baseline," Paloheimo said. "The last few months, I've been more aggressive and it seems to suit me."

Australia's Mark Kratzmann, who went all the way to the semifinals of the upset-filled US Pro Indoor Tournament in Philadelphia last week, lost his first-round match to South African Danie Visser 6-4 6-3.

Chang's biggest problem was an uncharacteristic inability to take advantage of break opportunities against the left-hander.

The 18-year-old second seed was able to convert just one of 12 sound set break points. He failed to capitalise on two break points — in the fifth game to put the set back on serve and in the ninth game to set up his win.

"I didn't think I had him until it was over," admitted Layendecker. "When I was down 0-3, love-40, I had to make a decision whether to work hard to try and get back in the set or wait for the third."

Study ordered on S.Africa's re-admission to Olympics

ROME, Feb. 28. (Reuters): The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has ordered a study of prospects for readmitting South Africa to the Games following reforms in apartheid, the IOC president said in an interview published today.

Juan Antonio Samaranch told Italian sports newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport that the African Olympic Association had been asked to report on the problem after consulting sports associations representing every race in South Africa.

"We were the first sports organisation to close the door on segregationist South Africa in 1970. Now we note the changes there and we would be truly happy one day to be the first to open that door. But to do this we need the advice and approval of African countries," Samaranch said.

He also said he had invited East European Olympic Associations and sports ministers to IOC headquarters in Lausanne on April 21 to discuss the effect on sport of radical political changes in their countries.

He said communist nations in Europe and Latin America had used sport for propaganda, but this was changing fast. Now they were moving towards sport for the masses.

"But I believe that these ex-communist countries will still succeed in achieving good results in the Olympics or world championships because they have a tradition," he said.

Samaranch said he expected a single Olympic committee to be formed in the process of unification of East and West Germany.

A few minutes later Moihuddin gave the lead to Salcete of a thru ball which beat the goalkeeper. Incredible increased their momentum and went out in search of an equaliser thru Tony who dribbled past a couple of defenders and floated the ball to Anthony whose feeble header was saved by Peter under the Salcete goal. David, playing against his old team, was guilty of not bringing Incredible on par with Salcete on two occasions when in the first instance he blasted over the bar when a simple placement would have done the job and again a direct kick taken by Frankie landed at his feet but he missed his shot.

The second match of the day pitted the veterans Navelim against youngsters Nasa, who have reached this far for the first time and gave a good account of themselves with a well-deserved 2-1 victory.

As early as the second minute, Joaquim wasted two golden chances of taking an early lead by missing open sitters.

In the 6th minute, Steven floated a corner which was well converted by Juser to give Nasa the lead. Combined moves of Micky, Baltazar and Joaquim of Navelim were to no avail as the Nasa defence held on to their slender lead to take them into the break.

On resumption, Navelim sent Seby free to bring the score on level terms. Thereafter Navelim kept the ball for most of the time in Nasa's half and it was the over-confidence of defender Dominic which allowed Juser to pounce on the loose ball and score.

Vijay had a chance to increase the tally and put the issue beyond reach but he missed it only to allow Navelim increase their tempo in search of the equaliser which did not come their way.

Rams defeat Bombay

THREE matches of the Rami Mohammed Murad Cricket Tournament were played over the week.

In the first game at the Salmiya Ground, Rams defeated Bombay Youth by four wickets. In the second match Castrol thrashed Salmiya by six wickets while in the third Bombay Youth beat Salmiya by three wickets.

Salmiya gained some measure of revenge when they beat Castrol on Sunday in a friendly after their defeat at the hands of the same club on Friday.

In the first game, Bombay Youth won the toss and opted to bat. They managed to put on 127 runs in 23 overs with Quiser hitting 37, Amin 27 and Yaqoub 20. Rams' Francis took two wickets.

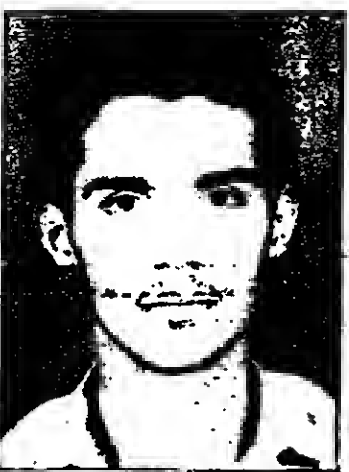
Rams got the required runs in the same number of overs but lost only six wickets. Derrick was the top scorer with 28 while Agustin hit 20 and Vijay and Benjamin 19 each. Shanker took three wickets for Bombay Youth.

Salmiya scored 139 runs against Castrol but the latter scored the required runs for the loss of only four wickets with captain John hitting 59, David 25 and Norbert 24.

Earlier on Victor Daniel had caused Salmiya's collapse by taking three wickets for 29 runs in five overs.



Daniel: three for 29



Khalid: five wickets

In the third match of the tournament, Sialkot scored 165 six with Fawad hitting 20 and Riaz 16. Nareesh (82), Kurban 14, and Yaqoub (13) helped Bombay Youth reach the target for the loss of seven wickets.

Salmiya found the game easy in their friendly match with Castrol, who battled hard and scored 145 while Salmiya's runs in only 17.4 overs with Zahid scoring 36, Amin 33, Anjeesh 26 and Sadagat 16.

Tomorrow Castrol face Rams while Rajistan meet Bombay Youth in the morning and in the afternoon Rajistan meet Sialkot and Rams face Salmiya.

Awami reached the final of the Mushtaq Memorial match with a 24-run victory over Siddique Cricket Club.

Batting first, Awami put on 167 for nine in only 25 overs. Gulam Mustafa scoring 43, Sikander 35 and Salim 20. Amjad was the most successful bowler with three wickets while Arif got two wickets and Amjad Jr got two wickets and Amjad Jr got two wickets and Amjad Jr got two wickets.

Siddique were all out for 142 with Malik hitting 43 and Shahid 35. For Awami, Khalid Zaheer was the architect of Siddique's collapse with five wickets for 15 runs. Azim, Sikander and Baber took one wicket each.

Bahman sails to victory in Merit series



Abdul Rahman Bahman (right) receives the winner's trophy from club chairman Bob Ward.

ABDUL RAHMAN BAHMAN won the Merit Year Series of the Messilah Windsurfing Club of Friday in one of the closest and most dramatic finishes ever seen at the Messilah Beach.

At the start of the day's racing, Bruce Keeping and Bahman had both scored almost identical points for their best six results, with Mike Quinn still closely chasing them. Unfortunately, both Hadrien Fillon and Stevie Hutchinson, both previous leaders this season, could not compete due to other commitments.

Everyone had been anticipating a long close battle between Keeping and Bahman, but nobody expected Keeping's chances to be over soon after the first hour due to a collision between the two leading boardsailors.

The course had been set at a standard Olympic triangle with a large upwind leg. For the first race the wind was only



Some of the competitors (from left): F. Harakeh, B. Kamphans, R. Green, B. Keeping, A.R. Bahman, M. Quinn, M. Devey, R. Ward and G. Ashwell.

Force 2 northerly, so only two laps were set, with the start and finish line from the leeward mark.

Bahman and Keeping both set off on the first heat port tack. About halfway through the first leg, Bahman was just ahead, but Seward of Keeping, still both on port tack, Bahman decided to tack into starboard to head towards the first mark.

Keeping, however, tried to tack also, right in the path of Bahman, whose board then caught right through Keeping's sail, thus putting him out of the race, and possibly out of the series. Bahman carried on to reach the windward mark ahead of Mike Quinn and Bob Ward.

Bahman increased his lead over the rest of the course as the rest

of the fleet spread out. Bahman won, with Quinn second and Ward third.

Back at the clubhouse, Keeping was assessing the damage to his sail when Bahman offered to lend him a large sail for what was to be the last race of the series. Keeping accepted the offer and the challenge, so the stage was once again set for a classic duel between the Kuwaiti champion and the British champion with Irishman Mike Quinn ready to take advantage of any mistakes the leaders might make.

A marathon course was set by race officer Bob Ward, with three long beats of the Olympic triangle, to test the endurance of the board sailors.

This time, at the first windward mark it was Keeping leading from Bahman and Green. Bahman later caught up level with Keeping who tried to luff up to the wind to avoid being overtaken,

but eventually Bahman sneaked through and kept the lead for almost a lap. But Keeping was able to point higher on the beats and tack faster which kept both the leaders level right up to the finish line, where Bahman finished first after an hour's racing with Keeping only two seconds behind and Bob Ward third.

The final Merit League standings: 1. Bahman (sponsored by Qabazard Marine), 17 points; 2. Keeping, 22.25; 3. Quinn, 23.75; 4. Fillon, 33.75; 5. Hutchinson (sponsored by The Sultan Center), 35.50; 6. F. Harakeh, 46.00; 7. B. Kamphans, 50.00; 8. Ward, 50.00; 9. Large, 56.00.

The Merit Spring Series starts on Friday, March 16, at 10.00 am. For details contact Bob Green, Tel. 4896000 ext 3943.

BKME triumph twice

THE Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East registered two victories over the weekend. First they beat Hubara in the Jashanmal Friday League by a huge margin of 124 runs and then crushed Kokan by five wickets in the semifinal of the Goodyear Cup, sponsored by Abdul Hadi Al Maiman.

Against Hubara, at the KOC New Grounds, BKME batting first piled up a huge total of 224 for 5 wickets. Their innings was built around a fine opening partnership of 134 between Ashfaq and Salim. Ashfaq, who has been in superb form, looked set for his first hundred when he missed a Shipton delivery which left his stumps in shambles. His innings of 82 came at only 52 balls and included 10 fours and 2 sixes.

Salim at the other end went on to score 77 off 78 deliveries with 4 fours. He was involved in another fruitful partnership of 60 with Mahmoud Bastaki for the third wicket. Bastaki contributed 32 with 3 fours.

Talbot was the most successful bowler for Hubara with 2 wickets, while Shipton and Boldy claimed a wicket each.

Hubara, facing an imposing target, lost Talbot in the second over of Tariq. They kept losing wickets at regular intervals and were soon all out for 100. Only Shipton with 30 and Rao with 27 faced the BKME bowlers with any confidence.

For BKME, Tariq, Ronnie Sr, and Sandeep claimed 2 wickets each while Ronnie Jr and Sethi shared the other wickets.

In the semifinals of the Goodyear Trophy, played at the Rigga Grounds, against Kokan, BKME emerged winners by 5 wickets. Kokan won the toss and decided to bat first with openers Majed and Iqbal. Majed was bowled off the second delivery from Salim. Kokan never recovered from this early shock and they kept losing wickets regularly to end their innings for a paltry 90 runs. Major contributions came from Ahrar with 25 not out while Zakaria and Aslam chipped in with 15 and 14 respectively.

For BKME, Salim and Ronnie Sr were the most successful bowlers claiming 4 wickets apiece conceding 20 and 24 runs respectively. Sethi and Tariq shared the other two wickets.

Facing an easy target, BKME scored the necessary runs in 13 overs. They however, lost 5 wickets while achieving their target. Sandeep scored an elegant 38 with 5 fours. Tariq sealed BKME victory with a huge six off Aslam.

Aslam was the successful bowler for Kokan with 3 wickets, while Zakaria and Qasim claimed a victim each.



Ashfaq: scored 82

Salcete, Nasa win

SALCETE and Nasa overcame their opponents with identical margins to reach the finals of the 8th Youth Recreation Centre annual football tournament held at the Sour grounds earlier this week.

Salcete as expected got the better of Incredible SC winners of this tournament for the last three years, but seem to have lost much of their sting. The match started on equal footing with both teams vigorously attacking each other's goal area without much damage.

In the 30th minute Celestino of Salcete was fed an open ball and had only Johnny to beat in the goal but he missed the opportunity. Once again a similar chance came his way but this time Johnny made a brilliant save to stop Salcete from gaining the lead. On a counter move by Incredible, a corner kick was conceded by Salcete which was taken by Tony. The ball curved in to beat Salcete goalkeeper and into the net of the inside edge of the cross bar for Incredible to go ahead 1-0.

After the break, Salcete mounted pressure which put the Incredible lads on the defensive. Salcete's equaliser came thru a corner kick taken by Martin for a well executed header by Salcete's defender Jose which gave Johnny no chance.

A few minutes later Moihuddin gave the lead to Salcete of a thru ball which beat the goalkeeper. Incredible increased their momentum and went out in search of an equaliser thru Tony who dribbled past a couple of defenders and floated the ball to Anthony whose feeble header was saved by Peter under the Salcete goal. David, playing against his old team, was guilty of not bringing Incredible on par with Salcete on two occasions when in the first instance he blasted over the bar when a simple placement would have done the job and again a direct kick taken by Frankie landed at his feet but he missed his shot.

The second match of the day pitted the veterans Navelim against youngsters Nasa, who have reached this far for the first time and gave a good account of themselves with a well-deserved 2-1 victory.

As early as the second minute, Joaquim wasted two golden chances of taking an early lead by missing open sitters.

In the 6th minute, Steven floated a corner which was well converted by Juser to give Nasa the lead. Combined moves of Micky, Baltazar and Joaquim of Navelim were to no avail as the Nasa defence held on to their slender lead to take them into the break.

On resumption, Navelim sent Seby free to bring the score on level terms. Thereafter Navelim kept the ball for most of the time in Nasa's half and it was the over-confidence of defender Dominic which allowed Juser to pounce on the loose ball and score.

Michael Holding plays key role in Malcolm's success

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb. 28. (Reuters) Former West Indies pace bowler Michael Holding was the inspiration behind Devon Malcolm's striking contribution towards England's mastery of the West Indies in the first cricket Test.

Malcolm took four wickets, including the scalp of Viv Richards for the second time in the match, on Monday to fire England to the brink of their first Test victory over West Indies for 16 years.

West Indies, unbeaten at Sabina Park since 1955, went into the fourth day after yesterday's rest day only 29 runs ahead with two second innings wickets in hand. The game today was delayed by overnight rain.

Jamaican-born Malcolm said he had learned a lot from Holding as team-mates with English county Derbyshire.

"He took me to one side in the nets one day last season and said that if I wanted to play the game properly then I couldn't just concentrate on bowling quickly," said Malcolm. "I had to study every aspect of the game."

Malcolm heeded Holding's advice and in the opening Test has bowled much fewer wayward deliveries than normal.

Said Holding: "Devon has always been able to bowl some very good deliveries but has sent down too many bad ones in the past. That was not the case yesterday and he was so much more effective."

Iraq hold Kuwait 1-1

Home team scores both goals



An Iraqi defender clears the ball.



An action shot of the match.

FAVOURITES Kuwait and Iraq played to an exciting 1-1 draw in their Arab Gulf Cup match at the Peace and Friendship stadium yesterday.

Kuwait took the lead in the 3rd minute of the second half when Wael Sulaiman headed the ball into the goal off a high pass from Muayyad Al Haddad.

Iraq got the equaliser 21 minutes later through an own goal by Kuwaiti left-back Adel Khalafawi, who attempted to clear a dangerous ball but only managed to deflect it into his own net.

Laith Hussain, the Iraqi midfielder who was at his best in yesterday's match, made a long run into the Kuwaiti half and from the tip of the box drove in a scorching shot. Al Khalafawi and goalkeeper Sameer Saeed both went for the ball but the ball bounced off the former's boot before the latter could reach it.

The two teams played the best match of the tournament so far. They thrilled the capacity crowd of over 25,000 including about 10,000 Iraqis. Kuwait clearly had the upper hand in the first half and continuously threatened the Iraqi goal.

Mohammad Ibrahim's powerful header missed the goal by few inches only in the 11th minute of the first half. Wael Sulaiman drove a powerful long range shot which just missed the right post. Defender Basel Abdulnabi got the best chance of the first half, few minutes before the end. Ubaid Shemmari sent an accurate pass from the corner and Basel met it with a powerful header. The goalkeeper had to extend his hand to collect the ball in the last moment exactly on the goal line.

Iraqis organised themselves well only after realizing that they were in danger of defeat. Laith Hussain, undoubtedly the best player on the field, engineered most of Iraq's dangerous moves. Supported by the skilful Habbib Jaafar from the other side, the Iraqis opened up and made several attempts to get the equalizer. It came in the 22nd minute.

The Iraqis nearly got the winner on two occasions, both from Habbib Jaafar who played as a right winger in the second half. On the first chance, Jaafar got a neat pass few metres away from the open goal but he shot high. On the second, Sameer Saeed made a marvellous save after Jaafar got an easy ball and confidently shot towards the empty goal. Sameer Saeed quickly extended himself and managed to keep the ball out of the goal with the tips of his fingers. Nevertheless, Muayyad Al Haddad could have put the match beyond Iraq's reach had he capitalised on an easy scoring opportunity even before the Iraqis scored the equalizer. He got a long ball and was face to face with the goalkeeper. He hesitated a little allowing an Iraqi defender to reach him and shot high.

Kuwait have collected 4 points from 3 matches after beating Bahrain 1-0 and drawing with Oman and Iraq with same result 1-1. Iraq, who played one match less, have collected 3 points.



Sameer Saeed (right) collects the ball high in the air. (Photos by Ahmed Burini and Muzur)



Laith moves towards Kuwait goal.



Both sides light for the ball.

Knicks rout Mavericks

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (AP) Patrick Ewing scored 21 points and Trent Tucker had nine straight for New York during a 30-7 second-half surge that carried the Knicks to a 110-87 rout of the Dallas Mavericks last night.

The Knicks led only 68-64 with 2:31 left in the third quarter after the Mavericks trailed by as many as 11 points earlier in the period.

New York, 23-3 at home this season, then scored 10 consecutive points for a 78-64 lead a minute into the fourth quarter.

Gerald Wilkins scored 19 points and Charles Oakley had 15 points and 15 rebounds for the Knicks.

Pistons 106, Rockets 102. Bill Laimbeer sank four free throws in the last 14 seconds of overtime and Isiah Thomas scored a season-high 37 points for Detroit, which won for the 15th time in 16 games to better its home record to 25-3.

Thomas scored eight of Detroit's 12 points in the overtime, and had 11 in the fourth quarter when the Pistons erased a 13-point Houston lead.

Results	Points	Rebounds
New York	110	87
Dallas	87	110
Orlando	115	109
Indiana	118	113
Detroit	106	102
Minnesota	104	108
Chicago	106	106
Phoenix	120	101
Portland	118	105
L.A. Clippers	103	99

SPORTS BRIEFS

Pakistan trophy

PAKISTAN Central Aid Committee's sports wing will organise a Pakistan Resolution Trophy cricket tournament on the Golden Jubilee of the event at the Nadi Al Nasser, Hattawi. For further details contact Haji Javed Iqbal, Tel. 4674483 or Nawazish Ali, Tel. 3719624.

Wicketkeeper dies

LONDON, Feb. 28. (Reuters) Les Ames, one of England's greatest wicketkeeper-batsmen, has died, aged 84. Ames played 47 times for his country and was first-choice wicketkeeper between 1931 and 1938.

Egyptians draw

CAIRO, Feb. 28. (Reuters) Egypt and Austria drew 0-0 in an international soccer friendly Monday as part of their preparations for the World Cup finals in Italy.

Convention ratified

STRASBOURG, France, Feb. 28. (AP) The world's first legally binding international convention to curb doping in sport will go into effect tomorrow in five European countries, the Council of Europe said yesterday.

Porto crash

LISBON, Feb. 28. (Reuters) League leaders Porto crashed out of the Portuguese Cup yesterday after a surprise 2-0 home fifth round defeat by lowly Tirsense.

Soccer fans

MILAN, Feb. 28. (AP) Milan's police chief yesterday said that 25 troublemaking soccer fans would be barred from Italian stadiums for at least four months. The move was part of a crackdown on soccer-related violence prior to the World Cup.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game held yesterday: 1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murtwhaita 2. Rabab Abboushi & Nadia Arabi 3. Greia Chachoura & Eliane Kerala.

RESULTS of Sheraton bridge game held on Tuesday: N/S 1. Gajjar & Banayot 2. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murtwhaita 3. Henadi & Tiyat

E/W 1. Chebli & Boukharis 2. Sherin & Izzeldin 3. Capt. Nash & Fazal

A team of 4 tournament will be held on March 9 at 3:00 pm. Cups and prizes will be awarded.

Unity A capture Jinnah Trophy

UNITY 'A' won the inaugural Jinnah 7-a-side one-day hockey tournament held on Sunday as part of the National Day celebrations.

The tournament attracted 11 teams and was played on a league-cum-knock-out basis.

The surprise team in the semifinal line up was Unity 'B', who just managed to scrape past Cosmos 'B' by virtue of their one-point win. But in the semifinals they were thrashed 6-1 by their seniors. Arif (4), Amjad and Moein scored for Unity 'A' whilst George reduced the margin for Unity 'B'.

In the other semifinals, Al Hilal were all out for revenge as they had earlier lost to Cosmos 'A' in the

League match. Playing a more aggressive and faster game, Al Hilal outplayed Cosmos and emerged 3-1 winners in a one-sided affair. Mehmood (2) and Gohar scored for Al Hilal whilst Tommy reduced the margin for Cosmos.

The finals was completely dominated by Unity 'A'. Their superiority was evident to all the departments of the game as Arif Jr and skipper Afra Lopez bagged the best forward and best defender awards.

Nevertheless, Mehmood and Sohail penetrated the defence once in each half to reduce the final tally to 4-2 in Unity's favour. Arif Jr (2), Amjad and Moein scored for Unity.



Unity captain Lopez (left) receives the trophy.

Roberts replaces Hadlee

WELLINGTON, Feb. 28. (Reuters) Canterbury pace bowler Stu Roberts has replaced Richard Hadlee in New Zealand's one-day cricket team to play India at Dunedin on Thursday.

Hadlee, who became the first bowler to take 400 Test wickets during New Zealand's 1-0 Test series win over India this month, was advised to withdraw from the team to rest a strained hamstring.

Hadlee said yesterday he would probably be fit for New Zealand's next match in the triangular one-day series against Australia in Christchurch on Sunday.

Roberts was not the first choice replacement for Hadlee, New Zealand Cricket Council executive director Graham Dowling said. Jonathan Millmow of Wellington and Richard Petrie of Canterbury were also unavailable through injury.

Roberts was a prolific wicket taker in New Zealand's domestic Shell Trophy competition, taking 39 wickets for an average of 23.38 runs.

Hadlee and out-of-form opening batsman Trevor Franklin are the only members of New Zealand's Test squad to miss the first one-day international.

The squad (from 12) is: John Wright (captain), John Bracewell, Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch, Andrew Jones, Gavin Larsen, Danny Morrison, Stu Roberts, Ken Rutherford, Ian Smith, Martin Snedden and Shane Thomson.

India has yet to announce its squad.

Pakistan beat Britain for Speedbird Trophy



Races (centre) receives the winner's trophy.

PAKISTAN defeated the Great Britain XI by 21 runs in the British Airways Speedbird Trophy, played at the KOC grounds, Ahmadi earlier this week.

Set a total of 263 in 45 overs, the Great Britain team came closer to victory against Pakistan than they have done in the past few years. Great Britain managed to get 242 before losing the final wicket, that of Coulson, in the last over.

Some lusty blows from Coulson had given Great Britain a chance, including a 6 and several very quicky taken runs between the wicket. Unfortunately his swiftness of foot was not commensurate to his partners, accounting for the run outs of Clemens and McConville. It was



Both the teams before the start of the game.

perhaps in this department that Pakistan was far sharper than that of Great Britain to the extent that the Pakistan batsmen could take a single to a ring of 5 saving one, but the Great Britain batsmen found it difficult to get the ball past Races, who captained the Pakistanis with great sense.

The day began badly for Great Britain, despite winning the toss and putting in Pakistan. Great Britain's main bowler Fitzpatrick failed to turn up to the ground, being stuck in Iraq. This meant that McConville played as wicket keeper, leaving Shipton available to bowl. Pakistan started their innings briskly with Amjad and Qaiser, scoring 47 off the

first 8 overs from Boldy and Hunt, before Amjad was caught behind for 19. Tariq came in and proceeded to loft the ball to mid wicket at will.

Seward and Shipton took over the attack but Seward was soon despatched by both batsmen. Talbot, who was suffering from bronchitis, came on to bowl and was unlucky to have Tariq dropped in his first over. This mistake did not prove too costly as Tariq was caught and bowled by Shipton in the next over, for 57.

Meanwhile, Qaiser had departed run out for 33. Talbot and Shipton then turned the screw just as Pakistan looked as though they could amass over 300. Talbot in particular bowled with intelligence, bowling the occasional leg break to keep the bats-

men guessing. It was only a matter of time before Assad Baig was out caught and bowled. Races was caught at mid wicket and Zagar was bowled to give Talbot the impressive figures of 3 for 45 off 9 overs. Seward wrapped up the Pakistan innings in the 44th over, having Faissal caught going for a third consecutive 6 and Waqar caught for 21.

The Great Britain innings got off to a poor start, with Seward departing for one in the second over. Faissal bowled swiftly but without control as he gave away several wides. Shipton did not bat with his usual fluency, and if it had not been for Hunt, who was later awarded the Great Britain Man of the Match, Great Britain would have fallen even further

Dubai rally starts today

Khalifa tipped to take Gulf's toughest event

DUBAI: The Masafi 4WD Rally Challenge, regarded as the toughest motorsport event in the Gulf, roars into life this afternoon with reigning champion Suhail Khalifa facing a difficult defence of his title against 25 challengers.

Covering a total distance of 1,227 km, the 24-hour rally will take the competitors over some of Dubai's most difficult desert terrain and is as uncompromising as ever.

Allows

Driving a Land Rover, 1988 and 1989 champion Khalifa will set off first. He will be closely followed by former champions Mohammed Swaidan in a Range Rover, Mohammed Omar in a Mitsubishi Pajero, and an army of other desert driving specialists.

Sponsored by the Masafi Mineral Water Company, the punishing event allows little time for rest. After battling through the chill of the night, the survivors are gradually faced with the morning heat, so the fitness of the crews will be just as important as the reliability of the vehicles.

There is no doubting the difficulty of the Masafi Rally," said Clerk of the Course Terry Plant. "It takes a certain breed of competitor to enter and to actually finish the rally is creditable enough."

Because local knowledge will play a great part in the rally, none is looking further than Khalifa for a possible winner. Despite the presence of competitors from the UAE, Lebanon, Germany and even Finland, he is many people's choice to clinch a third Masafi victory and take permanent possession of the coveted trophy.

Competing

"I think everyone expects Suhail to win again," said veteran UAE campaigner Bob Nicholson, who will be competing in his ninth Masafi Rally as a driver.

"He is a superb desert driver and knows the land better than anyone. Despite the fact that we'll all be going flat out to beat him, I'm sure none of the other drivers will be upset if he wins again. He is a very popular figure in Middle East motorsport and is a perfect ambassador for rallying."

ARAB @ TIMES

Published by:
Dar Al-Seyassah

Editor-in-Chief
Ahmed Al Jarallah

Editorial Office:
Airport Road, Sharwaikh.
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex:
22332 KT

Telephones:
4813566 (main line)

Advertising:
4816326/7

Annual Subscription:
Kuwait 100 KD
Overseas 120 KD
Department of Publications
Ministry of Information
P.O. Box 9070
Saddam City
Tel. 00964 (0) 171 231 231

LANCILLA